

**Schools party***Elementary schools use fun, food to introduce families to staff, faculty*

Page 19

Fort Riley Post

Troopers open grid season*Middle school teams stampeded by Longhorns*

Page 11



Friday, September 23, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 38

**Around
The Army****Fort Knox:**

The Turret reported Sept. 15 that Bree Loggins, the wife of Staff Sgt. Bill Loggins, an instructor with Fort Knox's 5th Cavalry, 15th Cavalry, packed her pick-up truck, loaded a U Haul trailer a local dealer allowed her to use for free, and headed to her hometown of Slidell, La., Sept. 9.

Family members had evacuated from Slidell and came to Fort Knox when it became obvious that Hurricane Katrina was going to hit that Gulf Coast community two weeks earlier.

Sept. 9 they were headed back to see what remained of their property.

Loggins said the thought of going home with an empty trailer bothered her. "I felt I needed to bring some sort of relief."

So she bought some basic supplies for her nieces and nephews. Family and friends in the Fort Knox area added items they had heard the Red Cross and other organizations in the devastated areas were requesting.

Loggins said the Brotherhood of U.S. Army Veterans Association donated \$200 for gas for her trip, and the local Red Cross provided the money for gas for her mother's part of the trip.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox, Ky., news, visit www.thenewsenterprise.com/turret/ on the Web.

**Fort Bragg:**

The Paraglide reported Sept. 15 that a C-130 rolled through the intersection of Gruber and Longstreet roads en route to the 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial Museum.

The aircraft will join six other aircraft at the museum. The aircraft represent platforms from which division Soldiers have jumped since World War II.

For more on this story and other Fort Bragg, N.C., news, visit www.paraglideonline.net/ on the Web.

Baumholder:

The Herald Union reported Sept. 15 that the 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team and Family Readiness Groups were working together to prepare families for an upcoming deployment.

The 2nd BCT is ready. The rear detachment teams have been formed. Family readiness support assistant positions, full-time government service jobs created to support the FRGs and rear detachment at the battalion level and above, have been filled, officials reported.

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in Hessen district of Germany, visit www.104thang.kan.army.mil/union/Hunionupdates.htm on the Web.

More homes



Post/Blackman

Site work begins on an area of Ellis Heights where 46 new senior noncommissioned officer quarters will be built.

Work begins on 62 new family quarters

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

Atherton Construction of Las Vegas, Nev., began site work this month at the intersection of 1st Division Road and Williston Point Road for new family housing in Ellis Heights.

The nearly \$15 million project will erect 46 senior noncommissioned officer quarters in Ellis Heights and 16 company grade officer units in the South O'Donnell housing area, said Pam Newman, post housing

manager.

Thirty duplexes and two single-story detached houses are planned for the total project. The mix of homes will include three- and four-bedroom two-story structures plus four single-story handicap accessible units, she said.

The units will include two-car garages. Newton said, and one bathroom will be made of reinforced concrete to serve as a storm shelter room.

The contract includes landscaping and supporting infrastructure, such as roads,

sewer and water lines and electricity.

Newman and Atherton representatives met with Fort Riley reps Sept. 19 for a 100 percent design review of the planned homes. Newman had no firm idea about what the new homes would look like, but said they would have to be compatible with architectural styles already standing in the two housing areas.

"We did this on the fast track," Newman said, explaining why site work was

See *New homes*, Page 4

Military may get disaster mission

President calls for bigger role in aftermath

By John D. Banusiewicz

AFPS

WASHINGTON — The military will have a broader role in disaster response, based on aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, President Bush said in a nationally televised address Sept. 15.

"It was not a normal hurricane — and the normal disaster relief system was not equal to it," Bush said. "Many of the men and women of the Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the United States military, the National Guard, Homeland Security, and state and local governments performed skillfully under the worst conditions."

Sept. 16, Defense Department officials reported 61,719 active duty and National Guard personnel on the ground or aboard ships supporting relief operations in the Gulf Coast region. Active duty forces now number 14,321, and 45,004 National Guard members are on hand. Another 2,394 personnel are outside the area and ready to assist.

The president said in retrospect, the response in the hurricane's immediate aftermath would have gone better had the federal government in general and the military services in particular been able to be more deeply involved at the outset.

"It is now clear that a challenge

See *Relief role*, Page 3

Director: DoD needs more Hispanics

By Rudi Williams

AFPS

WASHINGTON — Though the Defense Department has made considerable progress in increasing Hispanic representation in its military and civilian work force,

much more needs to be done, a top DoD official said recently.

Clarence Johnson, principal director of the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Equal Opportunity, told the audience at a luncheon and awards ceremony hosted by Latina Style magazine the middle

of September that since DoD began to draw down its military force in the late 1980s, Hispanic representation in the active duty military has more than doubled.

"Hispanics are now just over 9 percent of all Americans in the active duty military force and 8.5 percent of all persons serving in

the National Guard and Reserves," Johnson said.

But Johnson emphasized that more progress is needed. "Hispanics must be better represented in the leadership ranks," he said, "because we want role models for our youth and we want our military leadership to reflect the force

they lead."

Johnson also pointed out that DoD isn't satisfied with the number of Hispanic civilian employees in its work force. "Our efforts have not resulted in the success we want and expect," he noted.

See *Hispanics*, Page 4

Guardsmen launch rockets

Families watch live-fire exercise at Riley

By Jane Welch

Kansas National Guard

Rockets soared through the skies over Fort Riley ranges Sept. 17, as a Kansas Army National Guard unit conducted a live-fire exercise and demonstrated its combat prowess for family members and guests.

Members of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, conducted the live-fire exercise and open house.

The exercise held special meaning for unit members and their families because it was the first such exercise since the battalion's return from their deployment in Iraq.

An almost festive atmosphere permeated the day filled with

activities, such as blowing bubbles, for the kids and things for the adults to see, such as a Multiple Launch Rocket System, "Humvees," a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck, or HEMTT, loaded with rockets and other pieces of military equipment.

Soldiers, family members and friends crowded into the bleachers for the main attraction.

After a brief introduction by Lt. Col. Mike Dittano, the battalion commander, and Maj. Thomas Burke, battalion executive officer, Battery C fired the first rockets. Using three launchers, they shot a total of 18 rockets.

They were quickly followed by Battery B, which also used three launchers to shoot 18 rockets, and

then by Battery A, which used two launchers to shoot 17 rockets. A total of 69 rockets were launched throughout the day's events.

Cindy Alley, whose two sons, Sgt. 1st Class Chris Foster and Sgt. 1st Class Tim Foster, are members of the 2nd Bn., 130th FA, was looking forward to the exercise.

Alley, a schoolteacher, said, "I brought one of my third-graders with me. She and my son, Tim, were pen pals while he was stationed in Iraq. I'm looking forward to getting the chance to introduce them to each other."

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Jan Brandt walked around the encampment and checked everything with a watchful eye. "I spent



KARNG/Welch

The first three rockets of the Multiple Launch Rocket System go screaming into the air at the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, live-fire exercise Sept. 17 at Fort Riley, Kan.

See *Rockets*, Page 3



ED SCHRAM DODGE
6 x 21.25"
FULL PG ED SCHRAM 9/23 0355





Vets to dedicate monument

Decorated field artillery battalion served with Riley division

By Ret. Col. Bob Rupp
Special to the Post

Combat veterans of World War II will dedicate a plaque to their unit, the 3rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, and to their commander, the late Maj. Gen. George Ruhlén, at Fort Riley Sept. 24.

The ceremony will be in front of the U.S. Cavalry Museum beginning at 11 a.m.

The veterans and widows of veterans will be joined by dignitaries representing the post's garrison command, the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and the museum.

The plaque, designed and paid for by the veterans and widows, is

dedicated to the battalion, "whose members fought with valor and distinction in the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe, receiving a Presidential Unit Citation for ... repulsing an entire German Division for six days during the Battle of the Bulge."

It is inscribed to the memory of Ruhlén, who commanded the battalion during World War II, and commemorates the 3rd Armored FA Bn., which earned 37 battle honors since its origin in 1794.

The 3rd FA Bn. received its armored designation when the 2nd Cavalry Division was redesignated the 9th Armored Division at Fort Riley in July 1942.

Its Presidential Unit Citation was awarded all members of

Combat Command A of the 9th Armored Div. for extraordinary heroism during the Battle of the Bulge, citing "the outstandingly accurate fire of its artillery battalion (which) stopped every attack for six days."

During those six days - Dec. 16-22, 1944 - the 3rd Bn. fired an average of one 105mm round every 40 seconds, disrupting the attack schedule of an entire German Division.

Ruhlén, then a lieutenant colonel, trained the battalion he had joined as a lieutenant in 1940. A 1935 U.S. Military Academy graduate, he led the 3rd when it helped stabilize the south shoulder of the Bulge, when the 9th Armored Div. widened the corri-

dor opened by the 4th Armored Div. into Bastogne, and when the 9th captured Remagen Bridge, the only structure across the Rhine River captured while still standing.

Ruhlén later served as commanding general, 1st Armored Division, and deputy commanding general, Fourth U.S. Army. He retired in 1971 as commanding general, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He died Nov. 14, 2003, at age 92.

The veterans and widows of the 3rd Armored FA Bn. Association have held reunions since 1977, most of them in Junction City. Its veterans are the remnant of more than 600 Soldiers who made up the 3rd during WWII.

Relief role continued from page 1

on this scale requires greater federal authority and a broader role for the armed forces - the institution of our government most capable of massive logistical operations on a moment's notice," he said.

"Four years after the frightening experience of September the 11th," the president noted, "Americans have every right to expect a more effective response in a time of emergency."

Cities must have clear, up-to-date plans for responding to natural disasters, disease outbreaks and terrorist attacks, he said.

That includes the ability to evacuate large numbers of people in an emergency and to provide needed food, water and

security.

"In a time of terror threats and weapons of mass destruction," Bush said, "the danger to our citizens reaches much wider than a fault line or a flood plain. I consider detailed emergency planning to be a national security priority."

The president said he's ordered all Cabinet secretaries to participate in a comprehensive review of the government's response to the disaster.

"This government will learn the lessons of Hurricane Katrina," he said. "We're going to review every action and make necessary changes so that we are better prepared for any challenge of nature, or act of evil men, that could threaten our people."

Post news in brief

Parking curbed for open house

Main Post family quarters residents are reminded they will need to park their vehicles behind their quarters to facilitate Open House and Apple Day activities Oct. 1.

Water system to be flushed

Public Works will continue efforts to keep Fort Riley's water clear by flushing the water distribution system starting Oct. 3. The schedule for flushing is:

Oct. 3 - Main Post and Whiteside areas

Oct. 4 - Custer Hill housing areas

Oct. 5 - Custer Hill troop area

Oct. 6 - Custer Hill motor pool areas

Oct. 7 - Forsyth, Funston, Marshall Airfield areas

Flushing of the water mains will begin at 8 a.m. daily and continue until complete. Occupants of the affected area must refrain from using hot water during the flushing period. To facilitate flushing, post residents should not park directly across from fire hydrants.

When flushing of an area is complete, area occupants should clear the water lines in their quarters. This is accomplished by opening all cold water faucets and letting them run until the water runs clear. The hot water faucets should be opened next, to clear any remaining discoloration.

If the water does not clear up after 30 minutes, residents should call the Service Order Desk at 239-0900.

Questions concerning the flushing should be addressed to Don Wainwright at Public Works, 239-3908, during normal working hours.

Retiree day set for Oct. 14

The annual Fort Riley Retiree Appreciation Day will be 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 14 at Riley's Conference Center. Retirees of all services are invited to attend this event to receive the latest information on retiree benefits and activities at Fort Riley.

A Health Fair will be conducted by members of Irwin Army Community Hospital from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, will be the keynote speaker. Lt. Col. David Batchelor, commander of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, will also be a special guest, speaking about experiences while serving in Iraq.

Other guest speakers will include retired Col. George Webb, executive director of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, and Col. Marilyn Brooks, Irwin Army Community Hospital commander.

For more information, call 239-3320.

Rockets continued from page 1

a lot of time in this unit," he said, beaming with pride.

Brandt, who retired after more than 35 years with the Kansas Army National Guard, has a son, Capt. Jeremy Brandt, carrying on his legacy in the unit.

"I am extremely proud of the tremendous success the Soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 130th FA, have achieved in conducting the live fire of our rocket launchers within six months of coming back to drill," Dittamo said.

"Most MLRS units do not aggressively attack the training

challenge that 2nd Bn., 130th FA, has met in this short timeline," Dittamo said.

"In keeping with the battalion motto, 'Always a Little Better,' the sergeants and enlisted Soldiers of this battalion made it happen. It feels great to be working our primary weapons system after completing our year in Baghdad conducting non-artillery missions.

"We are glad to be back here in Kansas and to be with our family and friends who came out to see the live fire and the displays," he said.



Soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 130th FA, Kansas Army National Guard, man the unit's Tactical Operations Center and prepare for the firing of the next round of MLRS rocket launches.
KARNG/Welch

AT&T-AFC
5 x 13"
Black Only
#586969/PU 9/9 Being Deployed





Leave donations sought

By Kathy Patzner
CPAC

As of Sept. 15, several Fort Riley employees are experiencing a personal or a family medical emergency face a period of more than 24 hours of Leave Without Pay. The following individuals have requested that their names be released in order that they may receive donated leave.

Arnaldo Valdemar, Directorate of Logistics, control number CPACLT2304

David Klug, Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization, control number CPACLT0305

Barbara Holsomback, Directorate of Public Works, control number CPACLT0605

Sandra Barber, Medical

Department Activity, control number CPACLT0905

Melody Williams, MEDDAC, control number CPACLT1005

Gail Barnes, Southwestern Civilian Personnel Operations Center, control number CPACLT1105

Lori Griffiths, SWCPOC, control number CPACLT1205

Carolyn Hosier, SWCPOC, control number CPACLT1405

Bridgett Upchurch, Directorate of Information Management, control number CPACLT1505

Jacqueline Delacruz, MEDDAC, control number CPACLT1705

Sharon Kay Blea, DOL, control number CPACLT1905

Anthony Roberts, Provost Marshal's Office, control number

CPACLT2005

Brad Fegan, PMO, control number CPACLT2105

Jeanne Kay Elliott, Directorate of Public Works, control number CPACLT2205

David Sutton, MEDDAC, control number CPACLT2305

A SWCPOC employee, control number CPACLT2405

To donate annual leave to any of these individuals, civilian employees should complete OPM Form 630-A. This form is located on the CPAC Intranet Web site under "Forms." Completed forms should be forwarded to Kathy Patzner.

For more information on leave donation procedures, contact your activity's administrative point of contact or Patzner at 239-3171.



Post/Perrin

Time, disease damages tree

John Stewart (left) and Mike Anthony, both employees with the Directorate of Public Works, cut up a tree that fell over beside McCormick Park on post. Stewart said the tree fell down because it was diseased. From its apparent age, Stewart said he believed the tree had been on Fort Riley since Gen. Armstrong Custer was stationed at the post.

News homes continued from page 1

approved before the building design was OK'd. Fort Riley is planning for an influx of several hundred new families with a new 3,400-member brigade — 6th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division — already forming on Custer Hill.

The notice to proceed with actual building construction should be issued this fall, Newman said. If so, she expects the first units would be completed

during the summer of 2006 with the entire project completed in 2007.

The Ellis Heights project is located where some older family quarters were torn down in the 1990s, Newman said. Those quarters had been built about 30 years earlier, she said.

Another change in family housing plans concerns old housing in the South Warner Heights housing area.

Plans were made about two years ago to replace some of the aging quarters in the South Warner Heights Housing Area with new ones. Those plans would have resulted in 10 fewer family housing units being available, Newman said.

The plan now is to keep the South Warner Heights quarters and continue to maintain them in satisfactory living condition, Newman said.

Hispanics

continued from page 1

"Hispanics comprise slightly more than 6 percent of the DoD civilian work force, in comparison to almost 11 percent of the national civilian work force. This is not acceptable."

He said DoD is reaching out to Hispanics, trying to convince more of them to join the military and civilian work force.

"Our presence here today is an example of that effort," he said, "and we're expanding contacts and linkages with other Hispanic organizations such as the National Organization for Mexican American Rights, League of United Latin American Citizens, Mexican American Engineering Society and Hispanic Engineers National Achievement Awards Corporation," he said.

Johnson asked the audience to help DoD reach its goals by telling young Hispanics about the

opportunities and the value of service to the nation, either in the military ranks or as civil servants.

"The military affords our young people the opportunity to gain responsibility fast and develop leadership skills that can't be obtained anywhere else — from leading a platoon in battle to flying an aircraft off the deck of an aircraft carrier in high seas to developing departmental policy," he noted.

"And our civilian jobs offer exciting and rewarding career opportunities, as well."

This year's symposium recognized six Hispanic women trailblazers who have made an impact on the nation and their communities through their service in the armed forces. Last year, the symposium highlighted Hispanic women attending the four military academies.

The six honorees were Army

Lt. Col. Maricela G. Alvarado, Navy Capt. Kathleen Contres, Marine Corps Col. Angela Salinas, Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Susan R. Ayala, Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Priscilla Melendez and Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Isabel Paz.

Johnson, Bard and Rep. Grace Napolitano, chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, participated in presenting Latina Style plaques to the awardees. "Yours is a legacy that makes us proud and that gives us reason to pause in appreciation," Johnson told the honorees.

"Through your personal example and our expanded organizational efforts, we can increase the number of Hispanics in the federal government and in particular in the Department of Defense, but we must move forward together if we are to succeed," he said.

DAILY UNION
6 x 12"
Black Only
AUSA



Commentary

Friday, September 23, 2005

Fort Riley Post

Page 5

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What do you think is the major reason for the increasing divorce rates among military families?



"Deployment. There's not enough time between deployments. Soldiers ought to have a year and a half between deployments. You can't make up for lost time together."

Sgt. Angela Blake
Supply sergeant
1st Replacement Co.
Home: Elyria, Ohio



"Definitely deployments. Soldiers are gone from their families a lot. But, a big part is the need for a strong marriage to begin with and keeping good communication while gone. The Soldier has got to be ready to compromise on changes when he comes back."

Sgt. 1st Class Paul Gerard
Operations NCO
2nd Bn., 3rd Regt., 75th Div.
Home: St. Petersburg, Fla.



"People are not equipped to deal with deployments. Family Readiness Groups are not fully supported by some units. Units need to do more fundraisers, pass out more information to members."

Spc. Thomas Kolodzik
Computer systems info analyst
Det. D, 15th Personnel Services Bn.
Home: Eagle River, Alaska



"All the recent deployments. Certain units are going again and again and have only a little time at home. Not just deployment, it's the constant deployments."

Sgt. Priscella Taylor
2nd Platoon Team Leader
977th MP Company
Home: San Fernando, Calif.



"Deployment. Families are not adequately prepared for the spouse going away. Family Readiness Groups need to meet more often. FRGs need to be tighter knit."

Pfc. Katherine Vazquez
Human Resources Specialist
Det. D, 15th Personnel Services Bn.
Home: Houston

Next week's question:

Why do you think the Army has less of a racial tension problem than civilian communities often exhibit?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

Straight talk about oral health

Don't let fear keep you from dental chair

By Michael G. Moyer
Periodontist

If your palms start sweating and your heart starts pounding at the thought of visiting the dentist, you are not alone. The vast majority of individuals experience some anxiety toward dentistry.

However, about 10 to 15 percent of the population suffers from high dental anxiety, which has been associated with avoidance behaviors and adverse outcomes to dental health.

It's important to find ways to unlearn this dental fear because, when dental professionals can catch a problem in your mouth early, it minimizes expense, time and discomfort.

The first step is to identify



Lt. Col. Michael Moyer

are family and friends or personal bad experience more than 10 years ago.

Discuss your fear with family members, friends and your dental professionals. In many cases, the fears are no longer realistic because of advances in dentistry.

Next, find ways to feel more

where your fear came from. According to a recent

American Academy of Periodontology survey, periodontists report that two most common origins for

in control of your experience. Ask your dental professional to explain any procedures being considered. Knowledge can be empowering.

Your dental professional can also explain your options for techniques to control pain and stress, such as medications, anesthesia, sedation and relaxation techniques that can make your treatment virtually pain-free.

You and your dentist can agree on a signal, such as a raised hand, that will stop the procedure and allow you the opportunity to deal with your anxiety.

Choose times for your appointments when you won't be rushed or stressed by other issues. If you feel tense when you get into the dental chair, try relaxation techniques, such as rhythmic breathing or visualizing

calming scenarios, such as relaxing at the beach. Or, distract yourself with a Walkman or by focusing on something in the room.

Once the dental visit is over, congratulate yourself for your courage and treat yourself to a special reward, sugar free of course.

Most importantly, remember that your dental professionals are your allies. Enlist their help in overcoming your fear by not being embarrassed to talk with them about it and by asking any questions that you might have.

Lt. Col. Michael Moyer is assigned to the Dental Activity at Fort Riley. Comments made in this article are based on information provided by the American Academy of Periodontology.

First-hand experience

Katrina left destruction, determination too

By Steve Alvarez
AFPS

CEAN SPRINGS, Miss. — I'm a professional communicator. My job in the military is to find the right way to express things the right way. This is the first time in my career — in my life — that I have ever been at a loss for words.

No words can describe the sense of hopelessness that engulfs you upon entering this region — how tiny you feel in the wake of the immense power that wipes one's home from the earth, yet allows a small tree to hold its ground 20 feet away.

I had seen this type of devastation in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. I helped my hometown of Miami rebuild after what was then the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

Having seen Andrew's devastation firsthand, I can say this is far worse. Andrew was a shotgun shell fired at a paper target. Katrina is an atom bomb fired at the same target.

As I drove south on Interstate 65 from Montgomery, Ala., traces of Katrina began to appear. A little more than 20 miles away from Mobile, Ala., twisted billboards lay on the roadside, poles that once held hotel signs high above the highway now were bare; and plywood bald spots dotted rooftops where shingles once protected residents from the elements.

Riding with National Guardsmen in "Humvees" toward Pascagoula, Miss., people on the street waved as they passed us in cars with watermarks halfway up the doors. They honked their horns and gave the Soldiers a "thumbs up."

For a moment, the presence of military personnel keeping order and bringing hope to a region reminded me of my year in Iraq. As we drove, we passed Guardsmen maintaining order at gas stations, Soldiers working at relief stations in the sweltering heat and engineers clearing the way for disaster workers to repair the many broken cities of the Gulf Coast.

But this was not a war-torn

foreign land. This surreal, nightmarish, hellhole was my country, not someone else's. This was my back yard.

As a Floridian, hurricanes are a part of life. I grew up thinking that potential disasters were a price you paid and a risk you took for living in the South, what I consider the most beautiful part of our nation. Property was replaceable; that's why we have insurance. What matters after the storm is that you're alive.

As I walk through this chaotic oblivion, my view has changed. When the ceiling of a home that once bounced a child's laughter off its walls is ripped off and tossed a mile away, things change. When the mirror that a daughter primped in front of as she prepared for prom is shattered into a jagged jigsaw puzzle, perspectives change. And when the wall that measured a son's growth is now dust, thickening murky floodwaters, your opinion sways.

No words can accurately describe conditions here. There is no eloquent way to package this — no way to couch it into a talking point, into a theme, into a message.

The word "catastrophe" doesn't even rate what Katrina has done here. We need to find a new word for this level of devastation, coin something to capture this horror. Fish from the Gulf of Mexico swim in storm water runoff ponds and gullies on the side of the road. Inland leaves on bushes and shrubbery are wind-burned on one side from Katrina's vicious saltwater-laden winds. Near the coast, trees are leafless. They are brown, vein-like objects littered, like soiled garland, with torn and tattered clothing.

Cars float in pools. Boats sit on highways. Few houses are standing. Most are piles of lumber and mortar almost empty of the signs of human existence. Katrina somehow selectively removed personal effects from the homes, stealing the privacy of the victims and scattering pieces of their lives throughout the coast.

No insurance money in the

world can replace the property lost. People's memories have no monetary value, but when taken away, their loss makes people feel vulnerable.

Hurricane Katrina is no more, but like all violent acts she has left an indelible scar on victim and relief worker alike. I am not a victim of Katrina, but I still feel the intensity of fear and immensity of loneliness that survivors here feel.

Yet, as relief workers of all ethnicities, professions and socioeconomic groups from across the country converge onto this wide swath of despair, the human spirit remains undaunted. Utility workers frantically work to repair

power grids; doctors and nurses care for broken masses of humanity; construction workers remove storm debris and clear roads; aid workers feed the hungry; and police and military authorities strive to keep order.

Despite their shock, loss and sorrow, the region's residents display their strength and resilience.

In a waterfront development in Pascagoula, in what is left of the front steps of a home, the residents erected a flagpole and placed a small sign at the foot of the pole. The sign includes their address and the family's name, but at the bottom of the sign, in small letters is what I'll take with me from this disaster.

It reads: "No retreat. We'll be back. No surrender."

Grunt By Wayne Udden



FORT RILEY POST

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What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas):





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Post news in brief

Center staff cancels job fair

The Army Career and Alumni Program Center job fair scheduled for Oct. 21 has been cancelled. The non-availability of Soldiers and family members has made this necessary. The next ACAP job fair has been tentatively scheduled for April 28, 2006.

Regular ACAP services, such as pre-separation benefits briefings, 3 1/2-day job search workshops, special employer days and job search assistance will continue unchanged.

For more information, call the ACAP Center at 239-2278 or 239-2248, or stop by the office, Room 6, Building 21, on Main Post.

ID card center to close

The ID card center will be closed to the public from 7:45 a.m. to noon Sept. 27 so the staff can handle reserve unit mobilizations.

Emergencies, such as lost, stolen or expired cards, will be handled on a case-by-case basis. For emergencies, call 239-3654 or 239-3698.

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Fog blankets region's landscape

An abandoned road on Main Post disappears in the dense morning fog Sept. 16. Fog is a common weather condition during Kansas's fall season. At times, visibility can drop unexpectedly to near zero under dense patches of fog. Motorists should drive with caution and turn on their headlights during foggy mornings and evenings. Low beam headlights work best when driving in foggy conditions. Speed should be adjusted for the fog, with drivers slowing down so they can stop within the visibility distance the fog allows.

Post/Blackmon

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Katrina – Military reacts, Fort Polk to house Louisiana Guardsmen

Army News Service

FORT POLK, La. — Imagine returning from a war zone to find the home you left behind looking worse than where you just served.

While only an unlikely nightmare for most, for some members of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, Louisiana Army National Guard, it is a harsh reality.

With the devastation caused by recent Hurricane Katrina to New Orleans and surrounding communities, many Soldiers are returning home to find they have no home.

However, like a good battle buddy watching their brethren's back down range, the Fort Polk community stepped up to give their "brothers-in-arms" a roof over their heads to weather the storm.

"We have to take care of our own," said Rick Russell, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

Three-fold plan to house families

The plan to house returning Soldiers who may have lost everything is three-fold, Russell said.

The first part involves filling up the available 88 housing units on post. In addition to housing displaced Soldiers and their immediate families, Russell said there are also plans to fill housing with new furnishings with funds that may be secured through the Southwest Region of the Installation Management Agency by Col. Wade Woolfrey Jr., garrison commander.

"We want to put them in the best facilities possible," Russell said.

Due to the large number of families that may need homes, a second phase of purchasing and renovating mobile home parks scattered near the installation is

being planned. This project entails 330 mobile homes to house returning 256th Soldiers. The homes will also be equipped with furniture, washers, dryers, tables, lamps, microwaves and access stairs and ramps.

"It should take about 10 weeks to complete this project," Russell said, noting emphasis is being placed on utilities such as sewer, water and electricity. The project, which will cost about \$11 million, will be performed by bidding contractors through the Directorate of Public Works and in coordination with the Corps of Engineers.

Third phase will use North Fort complex

In the meantime, Russell said the third phase will be to build up and prepare the Force Provider Complex on North Fort for those awaiting the completion of the new mobile homes. This complex,

according to Russell, can house 550 families.

While it may not be home, the complex will have all amenities necessary, such as air conditioning, laundry and a chapel, among others, to help families stay as comfortable as possible before moving into more permanent quarters.

As homes are completed, Russell said families would be transferred out, filling in on-base housing and mobile homes first before moving off post.

Housing may go a long way toward helping hurricane victims, but a house doesn't always equate with a home. To help define the difference, Fort Polk and surrounding community agencies are trying to make life return as close to normal as possible.

Included in these steps are working with the Vernon Parish School Board to integrate displaced children into their schools, creating new bus stops and bus

routes and distributing financial dislocation allowances.

For those who lost jobs in addition to homes, Soldiers affected are being kept on active duty so they can continue to draw a paycheck to support their families.

"We want to give the Soldiers something to do," Russell said. "We have tons of employment opportunities for them here (on post)."

Returning Soldiers could be observers

Job opportunities, according to Russell, include providing trainers and staff augmentees to support Fort Polk's force protection and mobilization mission or serve as observer controllers for the Joint Readiness Training Center.

"Operations Group is always looking for trainers," Russell said. "These heroes coming back have real-life experience they can pass

to other Soldiers."

Resources such as additional chaplains and financial advisors from the Department of the Army are also arriving on post to help heal spiritual and monetary ailments.

"We're ready to help and ready to move," said Russell, stating the post has been looking into every contingency to make sure everyone is taken care of since learning of the need via a warning order from the 5th Army. "We're ready to receive them (Soldiers of the 256th) and look forward to helping them out."

The Department of Defense will fund the project through IMA, which is channeling the funds to the Southwest Region.

About 546 Soldiers from the 256th, many from the 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery, based in New Orleans, were affected with a projected 330 families needing homes. Families began filling housing Sept. 8.

Military families offered safe havens within U.S.

By Donna Miles

AFPS

WASHINGTON — Military family members ordered to evacuate military installations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama due to Hurricane Katrina are authorized to select an alternate safe haven anywhere in the continental United States, defense officials confirmed Sept. 7.

David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, announced the new policy in a memo sent to the ser-

vice secretaries Sept. 1.

The authority applies to family members whose housing was declared uninhabitable following the hurricane, Chu wrote.

Families affected by the policy qualify for up to two months of advance pay, and military family members will receive safe haven allowances for up to 180 days after arriving at their alternate safe haven location, Chu wrote.

Allowances will be paid in accordance with the Joint Forces Travel Regulation, with calculations generally following rules for

temporary duty travel: the actual cost of lodging, plus a separate meal and incidental allowance, explained Air Force Lt. Col. Al Bruner, from Chu's office.

Family members age 12 and older will receive travel pay and 100 percent of the per diem for their safe haven location for the first 30 days, Bruner said. DoD will pay full travel costs and 50 percent of the per diem rate for family members under age 12.

For more information, call the toll-free hotline at (800) 756-4571 and request option 6.

Sometimes help comes in flyer form



Paratroopers Army Spc. Shaun M. Cohen, left, and Sgt. Jon C. Hart provide an emergency assistance information flyer to New Orleans resident May Margaret McMahon Sept. 19. Cohen and Hart are both assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division's Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment.

ANS/Gilmore

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plays big role in relief

Katrina news briefly

Retirees, others should update pay information

WASHINGTON (AFPS) — Military retirees or annuitants who have relocated or changed their banking information after Hurricane Katrina must contact the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as soon as possible, DFAS officials said. Officials recommended any of three ways to report the changes.

- Call (800) 321-1080 Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Eastern time. Have current address, banking data and beneficiary information available when calling.

- Use the myPay Web site, <https://mypay.dfas.mil>, to update mailing and banking information. Customers can change their financial institution and designate direct deposit as the method of delivery. To establish a myPay account, log on to myPay and select "New PIN." For answers to questions about myPay, call (800) 390-2348.

- Fax your updated information to (800) 469-6559, making sure mailing and banking data are complete and that "Hurricane Katrina" is written at the top of the page. Include a contact phone number if possible.

Tricare policies announced

WASHINGTON (AFPS) — Military evacuees displaced by Hurricane Katrina may request that their prescription records at military treatment facilities in the Gulf Coast region be transferred to other military or retail pharmacies nationwide, officials with Tricare announced Sept. 12.

With this policy, displaced beneficiaries who have and need available refills won't have to see a primary-care manager to have their prescriptions rewritten, officials said.

Displaced beneficiaries who previously ordered their prescriptions through Tricare's mail-order pharmacy may now request their prescriptions from retail pharmacies if they are unable to receive them by mail, officials said.

For those relocating to areas where postal service is still available, Express Scripts International, Tricare's pharmacy contractor, is updating patient information to include temporary mailing addresses so prescriptions will reach the beneficiaries at their new location.

For assistance, hurricane victims can call Tricare at 1-866-275-4732.

AKO forum links evacuees, host homes

Guardman sets up way to offer room

By LaDonna S Davis
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — More than 100 Army Knowledge Online members from all over the country have offered their homes, support and care for families left homeless due to the destruction of Hurricane Katrina.

The "Need Shelter, Have Shelter" forum reads like a classified ad section with AKO members who are eager to help out victims

of Katrina posting their contact information, the space they have available, the number of people they are willing to take in, and any other type of information they feel would persuade a Soldier or displaced military family to come stay with them.

The forum was started by Staff Sgt. Joel E. Fix, who says that he wanted to create a consolidated place where all Army personnel who were willing to offer their homes to those families in need could post.

"I didn't expect for it to get as big as it has," said Fix about the overwhelming response to his forum.

"I just wanted to help," he said. "If I could help one individual, one Soldier, one family, then I feel

like I'm doing my part."

So far, 10 military families have been matched with AKO members who have offered their homes. But Fix hopes that, with time, that number will grow.

"We want to help out military families first. We want to take care of our own," Fix said. "But helping doesn't always come easy. One of the biggest obstacles Fix has been faced with is getting the word out."

Because Hurricane Katrina left many without phone or Internet access, Fix has to find other ways to match up people in need with host families who have posted on AKO.

"It's an exhaustive liaison effort with federal, civilian and cross-level personnel to get word

out," Fix said.

By contacting services like the Red Cross, United Way, National Guard and Army Reserve, Fix has been able to get lists of military families who now find themselves homeless by this devastating storm.

"It's a process," Fix said, "but what we are trying to do is find a long-term solution for these families in need."

Though many people have praised him for his efforts, Fix said that he's just doing his job.

"As a National Guard Soldier, this is what I've been trained to do. I'm compelled by the Army values," Fix said.

"Send me a picture with a happy family," he said, "that'll be reward enough for me."

How to help:

To access the "Need Shelter, Have Shelter" forum, you need to have an AKO account and log on.

Once inside AKO, click on the banner that says, "Click here to visit the AKO Katrina Information Center."

When you enter the Katrina Info. Center, scroll down till you see a box titled Discussion Forums.

Under the name column look for the forum called "Need Shelter Have Shelter." Click on it, and the forum will open.



ANS/Curden

Watery patrol

Sgt. Daniel Loeffler, team leader, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, and his team tread their way through the flooded streets of New Orleans during a presence patrol of the French Quarter district Sept. 9.



State agencies continue aid

Kansas households receive 2,450 evacuees

By Joy Moser

Kansas National Guard

Registrations to the FEMA Help-Line from Hurricane Katrina evacuees now in Kansas have increased to 935 households, a gain of 68 households.

This increases the estimated number of evacuees in Kansas to 2,450.

"It's good more folks are checking in, letting FEMA know where they are," said Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

"It not only enables them to have access to services they need, but could also help loved ones get in touch with each other. I appreciate every Kansan's continued generosity and support for victims of Katrina," the governor said.

Kansas Emergency Management is sending 11 personnel from various city, county and state agencies to help staff an Area Field Command located in Biloxi, Miss.

They will assist in stabilization operations and needs assessment for a six-county area. The group was expected to be in place on Sept. 19.

That will bring to about 65 the number of Kansas emergency response personnel from city, county and state agencies working throughout the affected areas, providing assistance with logistics,

Locally:

Seventy evacuees have temporarily relocated to Riley County and 77 to Geary County.

These numbers include 17 school-aged children in Riley County and 19 in Geary County. A USD 383 spokesperson said that only a few children had enrolled in the district as of Sept. 13.

law enforcement, transportation and other recovery efforts.

Personnel from the Kansas National Guard are continuing their work with the Louisiana and Mississippi National Guard by providing command and control, logistical and other support.

More than 45,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from a number of states, including about 200 from Kansas, continue life saving and life sustaining missions by providing ongoing search and rescue, water, food and medical care to the areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is providing the following assistance:

KDHE's Immunizations Program has waived immunization requirements for school entry for

children affected by Hurricane Katrina who are seeking to register in Kansas schools. This is in effect for 60 days.

The KDHE Child Care program provides flexibility for Kansas foster families to take in additional children to provide homes for those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The KDHE Women, Infants and Children Program is prepared to assist mothers, infants and children who come to Kansas.

WIC clients with documentation will be accepted as transferred clients, and those without documentation will be given food vouchers.

To assist the Louisiana evacuees of Hurricane Katrina who need identification, the KDHE Office of Vital Statistics is facilitating getting birth records from the state offices in Louisiana. In addition, evacuees who were born in Kansas will be able to get their birth certificate from KDHE without paying the standard \$12 fee.

KDHE's Office of Vital Statistics is working with the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems to provide the service needed to evacuees as they arrive.

The Kansas Department of Education has waived many of the requirements necessary to get children enrolled in school.

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Special service honors U.S. POWs/MIAs



(From left) Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley; his wife, Diane; Col. Thomas Smith, U.S. Army Garrison commander; his wife, Holly; Col. William Perkins, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) chief of staff; and his wife, Gayle, sing a hymn at Normandy Chapel Sept. 16 as part of the National POW-MIA Recognition Day service.

Post/Perin

Speaker puts face on rescued, missing vets

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

Looming clouds and fog began a day of remembrance at Fort Riley Sept. 16. The post's participation in the national day of remembrance honored Soldiers who have been classified as prisoners of war or are missing in action with a special service at Normandy Chapel.

Dr. Dan McClure, a retired chaplain and colonel now a training instructor for the Installation Chaplain's Office, spoke at the ceremony.

"For centuries, POWs have existed. It's not a new phenomenon. It's not something that, at least I personally don't believe, is a highlight of humanity," McClure said.

McClure met a former POW for the first time after moving to Montana with his family.

"Until I had an opportunity to sit down in the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) hall, all I had ever done was read about World War II. After I joined the VFW, I had

faces," he said.

"When someone says World War II now, I see Barney. When they say Vietnam, obviously I see Soldiers that I knew, and when someone says Iraq, I see the Soldiers that are coming back (today). It (celebrating POW/MIA Day) is important because we have to put a face to the war and not just a historical reference in somebody's scrapbook," McClure said.

Barney and two brothers, Wayne and William, were veterans and former POWs in World War II, McClure said. They were held prisoners for a majority of the war. He described Wayne and William as large men and said the Japanese would torture them every day because they were considered a threat because of their large size. Barney was a smaller man and would only be beaten every other day, McClure said.

"Those three guys never got a chance to see a lot of combat, in that sense, but oh my, what we owe them and what our country owes them," McClure said. "And what they said to me was 'My

country doesn't owe me anything; it's just a privilege to live here.'"

The United States government has classified 609,419 of its citizens as prisoners of war and another 165,132 as missing in action, dating back to the Revolutionary War, McClure said.

"Six hundred thousand POWs, how many family members were affected by that?" he asked. "If they're married, the number doubles. If they have children, it increases even more. Can you imagine how big that number really is?" he asked those attending the service.

The United States is involved in the largest combat action in history, the battle between good and evil, McClure said. "I'm a firm believer that this country has sought good, and as a result of that nearly half a million of our people have had to go to ... live in other parts of the world and suffer unbelievable inhumanities. Some say sometimes that's the price of freedom. I don't believe that.

"You and I sit and stand where we are because they did what they did."

Smith: U.S. dedicated to returning lost servicemembers

Commander leaves Vietnam team with admiration for those accomplishing mission

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

A year in Hanoi convinced Fort Riley's garrison commander that the United States is dedicated to recovering all its lost servicemembers.

During that year, June 2003 to July 2004, Col. Thomas "Ty" Smith served as the last commander of Detachment 2, Joint Task Force Full-Accounting, and the first commander of Detachment 2 Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

His mission, and that of the joint team he commanded, was to recover the remains of America's servicemen missing in action during the Vietnam War.

The unit change was only a name change when the 11-year-old Joint Task Force Accounting organization merged with the 30-year-old Army Central Identification Laboratory-Hawaii, Smith explained.

That consolidation of organizations and missions occurred Oct. 1, 2003. The result formed the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command based in Hawaii and manned by about 425 handpicked Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Department of the Navy civilians.

Smith commanded Hanoi detachment

Smith's detachment was one of three - Bangkok, Hanoi and Vientiane, Laos - located in areas central to locations where the United States fought military campaigns. A fourth roving detachment operates in all other geographical areas.

JPAC's stated mission is to "achieve the fullest possible

accounting of all Americans missing as a result of our nation's previous conflicts. Our highest priority is the return of any living Americans that remain prisoners of war."

Recovery operations Smith conducted during his time in Vietnam returned the remains of 13 servicemen to their home soil. After Smith turned over command of the detachment, the remains of a 14th servicemember was repatriated from a recovery site initiated during Smith's tenure.

"It's easy for policy makers to say the United States is dedicated to bringing home every servicemember lost in war," Smith said, "but it's the dedication of these young military men and women doing the mission" that really proves the United States means what it says.

What the United States is promising, Smith said, is "we'll do whatever it takes to find them (servicemembers missing in action or held as prisoners of war). Our government is the only government in the world dedicated to bringing lost ones home."

The task is daunting. About 78,000 Americans remain missing from World War II, 8,100 from the Korean War, 1,800 from the Vietnam War, 120 from the Cold War and one from the Gulf War.

An estimated 35,000 lost in World War II are deemed unrecoverable and others were lost at sea or entombed in sunken vessels.

The enormity of the task does not deter the mortuary specialists, forensic anthropologists, linguists, medics, life support technicians, forensic photographers, explosive ordnance disposal technicians, mountaineering specialists, communication technicians and mechanics who comprise

recovery teams, depending on the skills needed for each recovery operation.

Life is not a picnic for members of the recovery teams, Smith said. The mission may require wading through water for miles, climbing mountains, clearing jungle for a helicopter landing zone and living in rudimentary shelters for as long as 60 days in order to fully excavate a site where servicemembers' remains are suspected to be, he said.

"These people work every day they are there (assigned to a team)," he said.

Smith wanted meaningful post

Smith picked his assignment with Det. 2 coming out of the U.S. Army War College. He knew up to 20 percent of his class would be picked for unaccompanied overseas assignments.

"I had five friends of mine in row that had been detachment commanders in Vietnam, so I had been real interested in it. I had been following it for quite some time, ... and I wanted to do something that has some meaning to it," he explained.

Smith's year in Vietnam became especially meaningful for him, he admitted.

"When I went over, I viewed my mission as a professional. I was going to do my duty," Smith said. "While I was there, my son deployed to Iraq. I began to see this more from the perspective of the parents, so it got a lot more

personal."

The comfort Smith experienced in knowing the United States is completely committed to bringing lost servicemembers home can be shared by every U.S. citizen waiting for lost relatives to be brought home, he said. "We've come to the top of mountains in Nepal, to the darkest, deepest jungles (to recover remains)."

One recovery mission in Vietnam required Smith's team to drain a swamp area and dig down 10 feet below the surface of the ground to recover a pilot known to have gone down at that point.

That recovery 30 years after the crash held special meaning for Smith, a graduate of Texas A&M University.

The pilot was Capt. Carl Long, also an Aggie and a graduate of the class of 1966. His remains were found in the cockpit with his Aggie ring still on his finger, Smith recalled.

The difficulties overcome in that recovery are indicative of the dedication JPAC recovery teams demonstrate in finding and returning lost American servicemembers to their home, Smith said.



Photo provided by Col. Thomas Smith

Col. Thomas Smith, then a lieutenant colonel commanding A JPAC's Det. 2 in Hanoi, stands on a hill above the A Shau Valley in Vietnam. In the background is a Russian Mi-17 helicopter the detachment used in its mission of recovering the remains of U.S. servicemembers missing in action.

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COTTONWOOD THEATERS
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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, September 23, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

Sports news in brief

Youth hockey teams forming

Registration for youth ice hockey will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 24 in Topeka. A year-round ice rink has just opened and will promote ice hockey competition for youth age 6 to 18.

The rink is located off U.S. Highway 470.

The season will run 40 practice sessions, two each week, and include 20 regular season games.

For more information about the competition and registration, send e-mail to barker-mom@shcglobal.net or steven.nott@us.army.mil.

K-State rugby wants players

The Kansas State University/Fort Riley Rugby Football Club is looking for new players.

The team conducts practice from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday at the university's "Old Stadium," said Luke Amey club president.

The club has 11 matches scheduled this season, which runs from through Nov. 19. Six of the matches are played in Manhattan and the rest are against teams in Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

For more information on participating with the Kansas State Fort Riley Rugby Football Club, contact Amey at lia3366@ksu.edu.

Firearms range open Sept. 25

Fort Riley's Range 9 for privately owned firearms is open for use on weekends by authorized patrons. Confirmed open date is Sept. 25, weather permitting.

The range may be open other days or those confirmed dates may change. Anyone wanting to use the range should first check with the Outdoor Recreation Center at 239-2249 to confirm the range is open.

The range is usually open despite inclement weather. If the range is to be closed because of severe weather or extreme cold or heat, the range officer scheduled for duty will notify Range Control and Outdoor Recreation.

Military police man the gate to the range area and inspect for range pass and that all weapons have the proper Provost Marshal's Office registrations. The vehicle pass for the range can be picked up at the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Firearms owners also can register weapons at the Outdoor Recreation Center, although it is recommended owners take a list of their weapons and serial numbers they wish to shoot at Range 9 to the PMO's Physical Security Office. Staff in that office will issue the proper paper work once the process is completed.

All users of the POF Range must possess a valid Department of Defense ID card and a Fort Riley weapons registration form for their firearm. All users of the POF range must have a valid POV pass before driving north of Vinton School Road.

All shooters must bring their own hearing protection. No water is available at Range 9.

Target stands and targets are available at no charge at Range 9.

FRMS seventh-graders battle Abilene

Several FRMS seventh-grade defenders scramble to take down an advancing Abilene player during the team's home opener Sept. 15. The Troopers were defeated by the Longhorns, 28-12.

Post/Blackmon



By April Blackmon
Staff writer

The Fort Riley Middle School seventh-grade football team lost its season opener to Abilene, 28-12, Sept. 15.

Abilene took an early 6-0 lead when Ryan Sprouse penetrated the middle of the Trooper defense for a 20-yard touchdown run. A clipping penalty on the Longhorns prevented them from receiving the extra points.

The Troopers began their first offensive drive with great field

position after Kevin Euring returned the kickoff to the 50-yard line. Offensive penalties plagued the team; however, and the Troopers failed to gain a first down.

Abilene's offense then ran down the ball and the clock before Jordan Ward scored a 27-yard touchdown with one minute left in the quarter. A quick pass play completed the conversion, and Abilene expanded its lead to 14-0.

Fort Riley ended the first quarter with a 16-yard loss for yardage. They erased that deficit

See Troopers, Page 14

Flag chasing



Post/Perrin

1st Maint. Co. quarterback Travis Bonner looks to throw the ball as 977th MP Co.'s Daniel Ashford reaches for his flag Sept. 14.

MPs defeat maintenance company

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

The 977th Military Police Company started their flag football season off strong with a 6-0 dominating defensive win over 1st Maintenance Company Sept. 14 at Sturgis Stadium.

The second day of the 2005 Fort Riley company level flag football league placed both teams on the field for their first games of the season.

The MPs started the game on defense, but their offensive line-up took the field quickly after the first play of the game.

An interception thrown by 1st Maint. Co.'s quarterback on the first offensive play was an ominous prediction of the defensive domination the MPs would mount.

However, penalties on their first two

offensive plays cost the MPs yardage. They reclaimed that lost ground and more with a pass on third down. They needed first down, however, was a few yards out of reach when the MPs completed their fourth down; and the ball went to their opponents.

The 1st Maint. Co.'s offensive players failed to complete their second offensive play of the game because the MPs again intercepted an attempted pass on their own 20-yard line.

The MPs' offense couldn't match their defense's prowess and failed to gain the needed 20 yards for what could have been the first touchdown of the game.

History repeated itself a third time when the 1st Maint. Co.'s offense took the field again. Another MP interception stopped 1st Maint. Co. from getting a first down, and the first half ended with

both teams sporting goose eggs on the scoreboard.

After the half-time break, the 1st Maint. Co.'s defense again kept the MPs from gaining a needed first down. A quarterback sack on the third down cost the MPs a few yards and the extra yardage kept the MP offense from getting a first down.

The MPs met strong offensive line resistance and failed to intercept a fourth attempted pass when 1st Maint. Co. took the ball on their fourth possession. But, the dominating MP defense continued and a quarterback sack sent the 1st Maint. Co. offensive team to the sidelines.

The only touchdown in the game came in the final quarter, capping a defensive battle that saw the MPs finally capture the win.



Post/Perrin

Nevin Smith of the 977th MP Co., runs the ball away from Tammie Green of 1st Maint. Co. as a flag is thrown on the play.

Sunflowers in bloom through October



Alan Hynek

By Alan Hynek
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Of all the nicknames the state of Kansas has had over the years, the name "Sunflower State" has prevailed. We have sunflowers everywhere in the state, including our state flag and state road markers. What's more, our only mountain is named Mount Sunflower.

Without a doubt, the sunflower is the most fitting symbol for the state of

Kansas. It also is quite an interesting family of plants that is very important to agriculture and wildlife.

Wild sunflowers can be seen blooming along roadsides and in pastures throughout the state from July through October. All of this yellow may look like the same type of sunflower, but there are actually 13 species of sunflowers in Kansas.

Sunflowers are part of the Composite or Aster family, which is one of the largest families of plants in North America. The common sunflower is a native of Kansas that gave rise to the variety of sunflower now grown in agriculture.

As the name implies, the flower can actually follow the sun. Common

See Sunflowers, Page 14



Post/Blackmon

Wild sunflowers can be found throughout Kansas.





Post news in brief

Sports, pool staff slate fun

Sept. 24 – Mommy & Me, Eyster Pool

Sept. 24 – 6 to 8 p.m., family night, Eyster Pool
For more information, call 239-2813.

Rec center hours changed

Fort Riley's Outdoor Recreation Center has changed its operating hours. New hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The center will close Sunday and Monday.

Weekend rental rates will be for Saturday through Tuesday. For more information, call Carol Alexander at the center, 239-2363.

Golf course selling items

The Custer Hill Golf Course is selling golf equipment through Sept. 25. Equipment includes Cobra drivers, fairway woods, golf bags and shoes.

Operating hours are 1 to 7 p.m. Monday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 784-6000.

Department seeks help

The fitness department is looking for new fitness instructors to teach aerobic/kick boxing classes. Individuals certified by well-recognized associations, such as ACSM, AFAA or ACE will be considered.

Anyone interested can send a resume to Building 202, Custer Avenue, fax it to 239-6870 or call 239-2813 for more information.

Bowl 'extreme' at Custer Lanes

Extreme bowling – bowling under strobe lights – is offered at discounts for families and individual soldiers using Custer Hill Lanes on post.

Patrons can bowl in the extreme conditions from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sundays for \$15 per lane. They can rent bowling shoes for \$1 a pair.

For more information, call 239-4366.

Rec offers shooting aid

The Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 9011 on Rifle Range Road, offers a Laser Shot Shooting Simulation System to help hunters improve their shooting. The system can be used for a rental fee of \$5 per person per hour or a group rate of \$15 per half hour or \$25 per hour.

Outdoor Rec is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call 239-2363.

Air Force team claims softball title

By Ryan Hansen

AFPS

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – The leader of the all-Air Force men's softball team knew it was going to take more than talent alone to claim the 2005 armed forces men's softball championship.

But after claiming the title with a 7-2 record during the three-day round-robin tournament at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Sept. 7 through 9, the four-time head coach now believes it may have come down to a little astrology.

"The stars and moon were lined up in the right direction for us this time, and we were real fortunate," said Steve Shortland, all-Air Force men's softball team head coach. "This tournament was such a nail biter."

The tournament championship is the Air Force's second straight title and its third in four years.

"Our big thing is team, team, team," Shortland said. "We had veterans producing, rookies producing, and we used them all in different situations throughout the tournament. Everything really paid off for us."

The all-Marine Corps team grabbed second place with a 6-3 record, and the all-Army team snagged third with a 4-5 record. The all-Navy team finished the tournament with a 1-8 record.

"This is the first time for me coaching at this level, and the team went 0-9 last year, so we had fun all the way through," said Dathan Edwards, all-Marine Corps head coach. "I think we were underestimated a bit, but we fed off of that and played hard."

On paper it may appear as though the Air Force had an easy run to the championship. They dropped their opening game of the tournament to the Navy, 7-6.

"It seemed like everybody was really gunning for us," said Steven Folds, all-Air Force second base-



AFPS/Hansen

Ronald Perry, All-Army Softball Team second baseman, tags out Cheryllton McRae of the All-Marine Softball Team during their first game of the 2005 Armed Forces Men's Softball Championships. The Army defeated the Marines 14-1.

man. "But that game definitely served as a wake-up call."

From there, the Air Force rebounded with a 14-7 win against the Army, generally considered one of the top teams in the tournament.

"There's a lot of parity and these teams are truly indicative of what their services offer," Shortland said.

The Air Force continued its rebound by hammering the Marines 25-3 in the nightcap, ending the first day at 2-1.

"We just needed to get our focus down and realize what we needed to do," said Sherwin Lockridge, all-Air Force shortstop. "The veterans really told us what to expect, and they led us in the right direction."

The Air Force team continued its roll on the second day of the tournament, defeating the Army in their second match-up, 12-5. But a hard dose of reality came in the afternoon, courtesy of the Marines, in a 6-5 loss.

"The first loss should have been an eye opener, but after we won a few games we may have gotten a little complacent," Shortland said. "But scores will humble you, and for us, it worked."

At that point, the Air Force, Army and Marines were all 3-2, with the Navy at 1-4. The tournament championship was still up for grabs, and Shortland had to get the team focused.

"I just reminded them that they have to play this tourney one game at a time and not take any team for granted," he said. "To win you have to bring your 'A' game every time."

The team listened and sunk the Navy 11-3 that evening, and the Marines defeated the Army 8-6. Those two wins set up a showdown between the two 4-2 teams the next morning.

"We still controlled our own destiny, and all we had to do was win out," said Christopher Markey, all-Air Force utility player. "We didn't want to have to have help

from anyone else; we just wanted to win the games we needed to win and take control."

Take control is exactly what the Air Force team did, handily defeating the Marines 13-4.

"We were really stoked going into that game," Edwards said. "We had a good shot, and our guys never gave up, and I'm really proud of them."

"We pulled together when we needed to," said James Flagg, an all-Air Force outfielder.

A win against the Navy in the afternoon would clinch the title for the Air Force. However, the Sailors wouldn't go down without a fight, losing a close 9-8 ball game.

"Softball is a game of inches," said Earlie West, all-Navy head coach. "A line drive here or there and our destiny may have changed a bit."

"I told the team that on my death certificate, when I die, it will read cause of death 2005 Armed Forces Tournament," Shortland said. "But I wouldn't trade it for

the world."

With the title decided, the Air Force came out relaxed for the final game with Army. They took an early lead, but found themselves down in the bottom of the seventh.

Flagg nailed a three-run, walk-off home run to win the game, 15-12. "Everyone would like to walk through a tournament, but the added drama does make it sweet," Markey said. "We had to work, work, work and pick each other up. It was a total team effort."

Shortland said a few rule changes evened the field out and made for a great tournament. "We had a new system this year where we couldn't use our own equipment," he said. "We had to use the bats purchased by the armed services folks, and that really changed the tournament."

"There was a level playing field this year, no doubt about it," said Victor Rivera-Collazo, all-Army head coach. "The changes really evened it out between all of the teams."

Eight complete fitness program

By Stephanie Perrin

Staff writer

Eight directors from three Fort Riley departments completed the second round of the My Life Fitness program Aug. 19.

The second My Life Fitness program was piloted by directors and supervisors from all departments on post, Fitness Program Manager Kim Miller said.

"We were focused on getting the managers, supervisory level and directors to the program, so that they could participate, understand the program and the purpose and then be able to go out and encourage and support their staff members to participate in future sessions," Miller said.

Directors will most likely promote a health program if they maintain a healthy lifestyle themselves, she said.

"If (directors) are not inclined to do physical activities, then they're probably not going to be really inclined to push their employees to be physically fit," Miller said.

The participants, as in the first session, initially received a pre-assessment that tested their resting heart rates, blood pressure, cardio respiratory capacity and strength and agility tests. Personal workouts and training programs were then created for individuals based on their pre-assessments.

"We're pretty much just rerun-

Finishers

Laurel Erickson – Highest Points/Most Activity

Julie Howell – Most overall improvement by female

Mark Sodemann – Most overall improvement by male

David Wild

Arnold Boyd

Jean Boyd

Bonnie Templeton

Lisa Jones

ning the (same) program. We've pretty much got the base design of the program from here on out," she said.

The participants were required to attend a post-assessment upon completion of the program. The assessment tested their progress since the initial pre-assessments.

The male and female participants with the most improvement were awarded Fort Riley gym bags, Miller said.

The participants were required to provide a monthly activity roster. The roster showed how the employees obtained their three hours of fitness for each week.

"Any activity where you actually increase your heart rate and are working in your target heart zone for a period of time (increases the individual's points), I don't like to tell someone you shouldn't do

(that activity). I figure it really depends on the individual," Miller said.

Weekly classes were offered throughout the six months to help educate the participants about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. The voluntary classes covered such topics as diet and nutrition. The classes also were designed to help the participants maintain a healthy lifestyle after completion of the program, Miller said.

Briefings are currently in session for information about the upcoming third My Life Fitness Program. The program is scheduled for full-time and regular part-time appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund civilian employees.

"A big focus for the next session, I think, is going to be assisting people a little more to get past their barriers. I think a lot of people are running into time management problems once they get to work," Miller said. Organizers are considering additional options to allow participants the opportunity to receive their three hours of exercise a week. She said one option might be for the participants to exercise at the beginning of the day.

"We're just trying to help them figure out ways where they'll be more consistent and more committed to the program and have longer lasting results," she said.

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Black Only
202 Standard ad

KPA SCHNEIDER
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Black Only





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Post/Blackmon

Several Abilene defenders take down seventh-grade Trooper Kevin Euring (43) at Fort Riley Sept. 15. FRMS was defeated by the Longhorns, 28-12.

Troopers

continued from page 11

quickly when Euring ran 78 yards for a TD on the first play of the second quarter. The Longhorns tackled Quarterback Zachary Jones before he could get into the end zone for extra points.

The Longhorns again grazed away game time, inching their way through Trooper territory to the two-yard line. Ward walked in for the touchdown, but it was called back on a false start penalty. With 36 seconds left in the half, Ward took the ball in again, giving the Longhorns a 20-6 lead. The Trooper offense took the ball at the 20-yard line for the start of the second half and failed to move ahead.

Abilene's defense kept the Troopers near the line of scrimmage and a fake punt attempt and failed run gave the Longhorns control of the ball at the Trooper's 20. A quick handoff to Ward helped the Longhorns score again, making it a 28-6 game.

Fort Riley failed to gain first downs throughout most of the third quarter, but the Troopers also kept Abilene from scoring on their drives.

In the fourth quarter, defensive action awoke a quiet Trooper crowd and team.

Trooper Jamison Carmichael jumped on an Abilene fumble in the first five seconds of the fourth quarter. With less than four minutes left in the game, Adam Garza snagged an interception at the 15-yard line and plowed his way to the 44-yard line. A Trooper penalty took them back to the 29-yard line.

"I don't know how I got it. He just threw it, and it was in my hands," said an excited Garza to his coach and teammates on the sideline. "I can't believe I got so far, I'm not really that fast."

Five plays later, Euring broke an Abilene tackle and ran 56 yards for a Trooper touchdown. Jones threw the extra point attempt to Lawrence Berkley, who was denied by Abilene right at the end zone line, ending the game at 28-12.



Post/Blackmon

Quarterback Zachary Jones pitches one to Kevin Euring during the fourth quarter of the Troopers' 28-12 loss to Abilene Sept. 15.

By Cindy Colson

Special to the Post

The Junction City High School Athletic Booster Club invites all Blue Jays fans to attend its first Flying High with Blue Jay Pride tailgate party before the Sept. 23 game at AJ Simpler Stadium in Junction City.

The fun, feast and festivities will begin at 5 p.m. inside the gate and continue until 6:30 p.m. Fans must pay regular admission to enter the gate, but after that they will be treated to a wide range of

events, demonstrations and free tailgate food.

During the party, members of the JCHS Athletic Booster Club will be grilling brats and serving beans and chips at no charge. Free soda also will be available.

At 5 p.m., Meet the Teams demonstrations will begin. Student athletes from each of the fall sports programs will be on hand to greet fans and answer any questions. Fans of all ages who enjoy watching soccer, volleyball, football or cross-country should make time to meet their favorite student athletes.

The Blue Jays Dance Team will be applying their artistic skills to face painting on fans. The Blue Jays cheerleaders will have a booth and be handing out spirit tags for small and big kids to decorate.

At the Blue Jay Pride booth, members will get everyone in the spirit by offering blue hair spraying for anyone who dares to go blue. Fans also will be able to take their picture with the Blue Jay mascot.

Members of the JCHS Athletic Booster Club will be selling blue and white helium balloons for 25

cents each. A balloon is released at kick-off time and after every Blue Jays touchdown. The club also will have Flying High with Blue Jay Pride T-Shirts for sale while they last. A membership sign-up table will be available for anyone who wishes to become a member of the JCHS Athletic Booster Club.

All funds raised by the JCHS Athletic Booster Club go towards supporting all JCHS student athletes and athletic programs.

For more information, contact Janet Pogue at 784-2466 or janetpogue@msn.com.

K-State takes on North Texas Sept. 24

Staff report

With its lone bye week of the season now in the rear-view mirror, Kansas State sets its sights on North Texas Sept. 24, as the Wildcats prepare for their final non-conference tune-up before heading into Big 12 action. Kickoff is at 1:10 p.m. at KSU Stadium.

Saturday's game will be just the third meeting between Kansas State and North Texas and the second of the Bill Snyder era.

K-State defeated UNT, 55-10, during 2000 in its last encounter with the Mean Green.

The seeds of greatest turnaround in the history of college football may just have been planted on Sept. 30, 1989, when Bill Snyder posted his first win as the head coach at K-State by defeating the Mean Green.

Riding a 30-game winless streak, Snyder led K-State to an improbable 20-17 victory over North Texas that ushered in a new era of hope for the Wildcat nation.

K-State will welcome back one of its heroes Saturday as legendary quarterback Darrell Dickey returns to KSU Stadium as the head coach of North Texas.

Dickey, the only quarterback of the modern era to lead the Wildcats in passing four straight sea-

sons, started for the Wildcats from 1979 to 1982.

Just the second 4,000-yard passer in K-State history, Dickey may be best remembered for leading the Wildcats to their first ever bowl game — the 1982 Independence Bowl — and K-State's first winning record since 1970.

**Kansas State
(2-0, 0-0)
vs.
North Texas
(1-1, 1-0)**

When: Sept. 24
Kickoff: 1:10 p.m.
Tickets: Call 1-800-221-CATS

TV: None
Radio: Mid America Sports Network, 32 affiliate stations; Junction City on 1420 AM, 102.5 FM; Manhattan on 1350 AM, 101.5 FM, 102.5 FM
Internet: www.kstatesports.com. Click the "Live" button at the top of the page and mouse down to "Live Football."

North Texas



North Texas enters Saturday's game with a 1-1 record on the young season following a 54-2 loss to Tulsa.

Under the direction of ninth-year head coach and former Wildcat quarterback Darrell Dickey, the Mean Green have won four straight Sun Belt Conference crowns.

North Texas enters the week averaging just eight points per game, while the Mean Green defense is yielding an average of 30.5 points but has managed five takeaways.

UNT is rushing for an average of 111.0 yards through two games, while passing for 90.5 yards on average.

K-State



K-State has featured a strong running game out of the gate with just enough passing from quarterback Allen Webb and a quartet of talented receivers mixed in to keep opposing defenses honest.

Junior Thomas Clayton has been the bell cow thus far, shredding opposing defenses for an average of 164.5 yards per game and 7.7 yards per rush. He enters Saturday's match-up as the nation's leading rusher.

On defense, Kansas State has displayed improved play across the board. The unit, which ranks 14th in rushing defense, has allowed just 78.0 yards per game.

Sunflowers

continued from page 11

sunflowers grown in agriculture nearly always face east, and the compass plant has leaves that commonly align in a north-south direction. Good to know if you ever get lost in Kansas.

There have been many uses of sunflowers in the past. Black and purple dyes were made from the shells, and yellow dyes were extracted from the flowers. The plentiful oils in sunflower seeds can be extracted and used in foods, paints and soaps. The seeds can also be ground to make bread and cakes.

The pith, which is the spongy middle section of the stem, has been used in life preservers, and

the roots of Maximilian sunflower can be eaten raw or cooked. The tubers of Jerusalem artichoke can be eaten raw, dried or made into a relish.

Sunflowers grown in agriculture today are quite different from other commonly grown crops. They are very drought tolerant, can grow in almost any soil and reach maturity in a very short time frame. These characteristics make the sunflower a viable crop in the extreme conditions of the Great Plains, where other crops can struggle in the difficult environment.

Sunflowers also are a very good soil conditioner, which is

beneficial when grown in a rotation with other crops.

The high oil content of the seeds and the plant's durability from year to year make it a boon to wildlife, especially birds and some mammals. In fact, one of the reasons sunflowers have become cost effective to grow in agriculture is its value as birdseed. Their popularity is evidenced by the frequency that fields of sunflowers

are now encountered. A field of sunflowers was a novelty a decade ago.

The common sunflower has proven to be a plant of many uses in agriculture. As a benefit to wildlife, the sunflower has no equal. With these important characteristics and its tolerance of extreme conditions, the sunflower makes an excellent choice as a symbol for the state of Kansas.

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Black Only
2x2 Lumber Yard

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
2 x 5"
Black Only
2x5 Awana #2

MANHATTAN SHOE REPAIR
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Black Only
2x2 Man shoe 25%off

BOBBY T'S
2 x 3.5"
Black Only
2x3.5 Bobby T's 9/2 7542 ml





Trooper charge

(From left front) Alyssa Wilkerson, Victoria Hill and Johnisha Smith, and (from right) Kadesia Johnson and Ciara Johnson hold a banner as the FRMS eighth-grade team runs through it during their home season opener Sept. 15. The Troopers fell to Abilene, 40-0.

Post/Blackmon

Flag football scores

Sept. 13 games:

HHC, 24th ID, def. HHB, 1st Bn., 5th FA, 26-13
Co. C, 1st Eng. Bn., def. Btry. D, 1st Bn., 5th FA, 34-18
Co. A, 1st Bn., 190th FA (MP Prov), def. MED-DAC, 6-0

Sept. 14 games:

HHB/Btry. A, 101st FSB, def. 331st Sig. Co., 20-12
977th MPs def. 116th MP Co., 6-0

Sept. 15 games:

HHC, 24th ID, def. Co. C, 1st Eng. Bn., 32-12
Co. A, 190th MP (Prov.), def. 523rd MP Co., 20-0
Btry. D, 1st Bn., 5th FA, def. 1st Maint. Co., 19-12



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Army Golden Knights bring home medals

By Marie Schult

Army News Service

PERRIS, Calif. — The U.S. Army Parachute Team, Golden Knights brought home two gold medals and numerous silver and bronze medals after competing at the 2005 National Skydiving Championships in Perris Valley, Calif., early this month.

The Knights hoped to win the gold in style, accuracy and four-way formation skydiving, enabling their competitors to travel to the Federation Aeronautique Internationale games in Europe to represent the U.S. and the Army next fall.

The Knights will be sending their style and accuracy team to the 29th FAI World Style and Accuracy Parachuting Championship next September in Stupino, Russia, to compete on the world stage.

Knights win Style and Accuracy

"I didn't know we won when I landed, but people came up to me and were congratulating us," said Sgt. 1st Class Elisa Feldt, style and accuracy competitor.

"People said Angela (the next jumper to land) could get a .16 and we would still win. That's when I realized how far ahead we were," said Feldt, whose team ended up with a combined total score of .30 centimeters.

The goal in accuracy is to have the lowest score possible. The second-place team managed .55 centimeters.

"I'm certainly one of the biggest Golden Knight fans, and I'm always happy when one of our teams goes that far," said Chief Warrant Officer Vernon Miller, a former Knight who is a piloting instructor at Fort Rucker, Ala.



Army News Service photo
Four members of the Golden Knights U.S. Army Parachute Team build an eight-way arrowhead with four of their competition alumni in the National Skydiving Championships.

Alumni compete in eight-way open

Miller and his co-worker and former team member, Chief Warrant Officer Carey Mills, also a flight instructor at Rucker, came to Nationals to compete in eight-way open with the Golden Knights.

"It's great to come back and be part of this organization," Mills said. "It was a rewarding and an awesome privilege."

Most Knights, current and former, reached their goals and attained their dream of getting selected for the national team. However, the Knights' formation freefall team missed their goal by two points at the end of 11 rounds.

Formation freefall is an event where teams compete in groups of four, eight, 10 and 16 skydivers who perform predetermined geometric formations in freefall in a predetermined amount of time.

Each team has a freefall videographer recording the jump and that recording is passed to judges upon landing.

Florida team goes neck-and-neck

In a neck-and-neck competition between the Golden Knight formation freefall team and DeLand and Fire, a team from DeLand, Fla., the Knights lost by two points after being ahead by two points. "Their improvement in the last

round always goes to the underdog, meaning DeLand would win.

After the 11th, the tapes were reviewed and the Knights just couldn't do it. DeLand managed to keep their heads in the game long enough to turn 36 points against the Knights' 34.

Nationals top 11-year stint

Winning the gold medal in four-way and earning a slot on the national team meant more than just representing the Army and the nation to these guys. Hoover and Sgt. 1st Class Brooks Weiner are already on orders to return to their Special Forces units.

After 11 years on the team, Hoover said he is ready.

"It's just been a really good run. I've enjoyed myself for the last 11 years. As far as training goes, no one is better than these five guys. I'd like to see them in the future be as good at competing as they are at training," Hoover said.

'Never quit'

"They did a great job displaying the Warrior Ethos, of 'never quit.' They could have easily quit after round 10 because the odds were stacked against them. But they went out there and gave it all they had," Eitniece said. "They should walk away with their heads held high. The command is real proud of them."

Although the team is sad about not winning the gold, those at the meet were happy with the way things were going during the com-

petition.

"They were the two favored teams and they were neck-and-neck, which elicits lots of excitement. I took off my duties as a judge in order to go out and watch the live judging of the 11th round," he said.

Eight-way competition close

The Knights picked themselves up, got back on the plane and gave Arizona Airspeed a run for their money in the eight-way competition.

The regular formation freefall team hooked up with some of their former team members to form the eight-way team.

Airspeed and the Knights were really the only teams close to the top. Airspeed won by nine points, putting the Knights at second with 191 points. The third place team, Paraclete, ended with 126 points.

16-way bronze, 10-way gold

At the 16-way competition, the Knights kept up their winning spirit by bringing home the bronze medal. Airspeed and a team from Texas, Deguello, took first and second, respectively.

In 10-way speed, the Knights won the gold and set a new national record by completing their formation in the least recorded amount of time.

"I'm happy we won 10-way. It was my first 10-way gold," Miller said.

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Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, September 23, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 19

Community news briefly

Council seeks instructors

The Junction City Arts Council is preparing to participate in the Geary County Unified School District 475 after-school program and is looking for someone who can instruct fifth-grade students in origami. The classes will be from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. on Nov. 15 and 16 or Nov. 29 and 30, whichever dates fit better in the instructor's schedule.

Anyone who can instruct these classes is asked to call the JCAC at 762-2581.

Rally Point sponsors events

Sept. 23 - 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night and buffet, followed by dance music until close.
Sept. 24-25 - Midnight to 4 a.m., late night Hip Hop.
For more information, call Rally Point at 784-5434.

Spouses' club to meet

The Enlisted Spouses' Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Armed Services YMCA in Junction City.

The club plans a white elephant bingo and cookie exchange.

For childcare reservations, call 784-4772.

Society seeks pie-baking help

The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley needs volunteers. It will soon be making frozen and baked apple pies for the Oct. 1 Fort Riley Open House and Apple Day observance.

Society members guarantee a good time to those taking part in an annual tradition on post. Pies will be made during three shifts - 9 to 11 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. - Sept. 26-29 in Building 8063, across the street from Long Gym on Custer Hill.

For more information or to volunteer, call Apple Day Volunteer Coordinator Crystal Cavalier at 784-8376 or send e-mail to criscavalier@hotmail.com.

Bible study offered

Officers' Christian Fellowship groups meet on- and off-post on different days of the week for Bible study.

To find out more, officers may contact Ben or Laura Saine at 717-2760, Dave or Felicit Veloney at 717-2820, Jess or Sarah Curry at 532-9177 or Bob or Renee Teetsel at 784-4480.

Women to meet, discuss book

Renee Teetsel will host a weekly session from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays for women seeking spiritual answers to difficult situations. The group will meet at Teetsel's home at 26 Arnold Avenue on post to discuss the book "Answering the Big Questions About God."

For more information, call Teetsel at 784-4480.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Fort Riley sponsors photo contest

Special to the Post

Fort Riley Arts and Crafts Center staff members are accepting entries in the post level competition of the annual Army Photography Contest for patrons and professionals eligible to use Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities.

Deadline for entry submission is Oct. 1.

The contest is an annual juried competition of photographic

prints and short films by active duty participants and other eligible entrants.

Active duty servicemembers must enter in Division I; all other authorized MWR patrons must enter in Division II. Official photographs taken for service functions or in the line of duty are not eligible. Employees of the Army Arts and Crafts program are not eligible to enter the contest.

Three separate classes of work may be entered into the contest:

Black and white prints, color prints and short films.

Print entries will be judged in five categories: People, place, object, military life and experimental processes.

In the short film class, films and videos will be judged together without further division into categories.

Print submissions will be not larger than 16x20 inches, outside dimensions. Prints larger than 16x20 inches may be submitted in

a reduced size; original size will be noted on the entry form.

Prints will not be smaller than 5x7 inches, outside dimensions.

Copy prints of unique originals, e.g., from Polaroid or alternative processes, may be submitted in lieu of the original image. This should be noted on the entry form.

Prints must be submitted unmounted, i.e., not attached to backing board. Prints may be bordered or bordered.

Prints should be enclosed in polyethylene print sleeves with entry forms attached to the reverse side of the print. The entry form should be hinge-mounted to the back of the print, with acid-free tape. Arts and Crafts Center personnel will assist patrons in preparing proper submissions. The Arts & Crafts Center has the print sleeves.

Print titles will be identified on

See Contest, Page 20

Schools party



Parents and their children sit outside Fort Riley Elementary School Sept. 15, enjoying a Back to School barbecue and picnic. The annual event is hosted by the school's Parent Teacher Association.

PTA hosts family feast

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

The faculty wore "Buffalo Pride" T-shirts that urged students to "Learn All You Can Learn." Students urged parents to put their toted contribution to the feast on the cafeteria table so they could show them their classroom.

The feast awaited an expected crowd of more than 300 parents, students, family members, staff and faculty at Fort Riley Elementary School with meat and drinks provided by the Parent Teacher Association.

Before the eating began Sept. 15, families picked out spots on the school's lawn to spread blankets or set up folding camp chairs or watched their children having fun on the playground.

After the barbecue and picnic - side dishes, chips and desserts provided by parents - the families would take part in a scavenger hunt with clues telling about each teacher, Principal Becky Lay said.

When the families found the right teacher, the student would be rewarded with a lollipop. "It's a fun way to bring the families and staff together," Lay said about the annual activity.

Joyce Wingfield bustled all around the school cafeteria, hallway and lobby, organizing the volunteer help and making sure everything was getting done. It is her second year as president of the PTA and her energy seemed to rub off on everybody.

"Today we've got a lot of help," she said. Some parents showed up and volunteered even though Wingfield hadn't asked them or expected them to, she said.

Such participation isn't unusual for parents of children at Fort Riley Elementary School, she added. "Anything we do turns out great. Our spring carnival will be just as good," she predicted.

Custer Hill school puts on fun night

By Stephanie Perrin

Staff writer

Neon-colored hair, temporary tattoos and a "moon walk" put smiles on the faces of Custer Hill Elementary School students Sept. 16.

The school's faculty and students kicked off their fourth annual Family Fun Night at 5 p.m. with food, games and prizes.

"The first year we started out small and we've gotten a little bit bigger each year. A little better," said Tim Stuck, student support monitor and Family Fun Night chairperson.

This year's Family Fun Night took place in conjunction with the school's annual open house, Stuck said.

"We needed new playground equipment and (Family Fun Night) was one idea we came up with ... to raise extra money to help fund the playground equipment," Stuck said.

Previous fundraising efforts helped

raise \$16,000 for new playground equipment. That equipment was installed on the school's playground in December. An additional \$15,000 is needed to buy the second half of the playground equipment, Stuck said. He and others involved with the fundraising hope it will take only two more years to raise that \$15,000, Stuck said.

In addition to the games and prizes at the Sept. 16 fun night, students gained knowledge of bicycle safety. Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 190th Field Artillery Company (MP Provisional) created an obstacle course with plastic cones. Students could attempt to ride their bicycles through the course to improve their stability and balance, Sgt. Eddie Krebs said.

Tickets for the activities cost 25 cents each and were used to jump and play in a monster truck moonwalk, an obstacle course, hair spraying, pie and cakewalks and more.

"The kids love (Family Fun Night). They get excited, and we always have a good turn out," Stuck said.



Post/Perrin

Fifth-grader Haley Parker slides on the inflatable obstacle course that was one of the activities included in Custer Elementary School's Family Fun Night.

Marriage and Military Life

Online dating has its benefits, consequences

By Gene-Thomas Gomulka

Retired Navy chaplain

Dear Gene-Thomas,

Thank you for your help in my search for the Navy Seal I've been communicating with online for the past two years.

Unfortunately, after following your advice, I discovered that he's a fraud who never served one day in the military.

All the things he told me about being in combat, being wounded and even being decorated for

About the author

Gene-Thomas Gomulka is a retired Navy chaplain.

Have a question? Write Gene-Thomas at letters@plaintext.net



courage and bravery were all lies.

Also, it turns out that he is not single, but married with two children. Please post my letter so that

other single women do not fall

into the same trap.

- Deceived

Dear Deceived,

In April of this year I addressed the topic of online dating and warned: "Some people are not always honest about themselves over the Internet. Some people conceal the fact that they are married, divorced or have children."

Because there are some people who meet online and develop meaningful relations, I would not want to be accused of dismissing any and all forms of online matchmaking. What I do suggest, however, is that people who meet

online meet face-to-face at some point in a safe place before becoming too emotionally involved.

One of the problems I have with the methodology involved in some matchmaking programs is that they attempt to match partners based primarily on common interests and similarities. While it is good that partners have a certain number of things in common, bonding is also helped by certain differences that compatibility tests can overlook. For example,

See Online, Page 20





Community news briefly

Post bike patrol sets rodeos

The Fort Riley Military Police Bike Patrol will sponsor three bike rodeos at post elementary schools in coming months.

Participants will have to ride through a cone obstacle course. The patrol members also will inspect bikes and make adjustments to fit bikes to riders and will check helmets.

Bike registration will also be available.

Rodeos are scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 24 at Morris Hill Elementary School and from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 22 at Ware Elementary School.

All participants must bring helmets and working bikes and wear closed-toe shoes.

For more information, call 239-2226.

Library opens pages on fun

Saturday story time at the Post Library, Building 5306, will be offered at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 24. All children and their caregivers are welcome to attend either session.

The upcoming story time will feature Pinkerton Pig, who always thinks of himself first in "Me First" on Sept. 24. But when Pinkerton thinks he is first in line for a sandwich, he gets stuck instead with a "Sandwich," who is just as selfish as he is.

The Fort Riley Library is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The library is closed on Mondays.

For more information, call 239-5305.



Post/Perrin

Sgt. Arron McDaniels of the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) takes rank and patches off BDUs he plans to sell as shoppers look through his yard sale Sept. 17.

Shoppers bargain hunt at post-wide yard sales

By Stephanie Perrin

Staff writer

Parking spaces were scarce along Fort Riley's residential streets Sept. 17 as bargain hunters scanned the garages and yards in pursuit of a good deal.

Post residents and members of surrounding communities participated in a post-wide yard sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participating residents lined their yards or garages with items available for purchase.

Venita Fiedler and her family have lived on Fort Riley for three years and typically hold a yard sale during one of the post-wide sales, she said.

"It's a lot of fun," Fiedler said. "I have a yard sale at least once a year. Usually we wait until we have stuff to set out, and by the end of the year you probably have stuff to set out."

Ila Bartoe said this was the first time she has participated in the community-wide yard sales. Items

that sold quickly from her house included a lawn mower and vacuum, she said. Despite the cooler weather, Bartoe said she enjoyed participating in the post-wide yard sales and that she plans to participate in the next one.

"I think (Fort Riley) should have them more often," Bartoe said. She plans on donating the clothes she did not sell to a battered women's shelter.

Some Fort Riley spouses took the opportunity to sell food items to busy shoppers. Angela Austin and Amy Morgan were two of the organizers who set up a concession stand to help raise money for their husbands' upcoming redeployments.

The volunteer spouses and children sold hot dogs, baked goods and beverages for donations. The money raised will help support a redeployment ceremony and ball after their husbands' unit, the 24th Transportation Company, returns to Fort Riley, Morgan said.

Wives receive makeovers

Spouses' club members model at luncheon

By Stephanie Perrin

Staff writer

Gift drawings, information booths and four "Extreme Makeovers" entertained members and guests attending the Sept. 15 luncheon of the Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club at Riley's Conference Center.

Some of the tables that lined the room provided information about several organizations on post and about locally owned businesses and hair salons.

"One of the hardest things to do when you move is finding a new hairstylist," said Debbi Elliot, OCSC president. "So we thought this would be a great way to let people know what's out here and what's available."

The four members chosen to receive the makeovers were selected during the club's August "Welcome Tea," said Michelle Archer, OCSC corresponding secretary. Members who wished to participate were asked to place their names in a hat. "We wanted to make sure we picked two mem-

Want to join?

The next meeting of the Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club will be an "Oktoberfest" celebration at 6 p.m. Oct. 21 at Riley's Conference Center.

For more information, visit the club's Web site at www.fortrileycsc.com.

bers new to the community and two members who have been here for awhile," Elliot said.

The four names were drawn were Kelly Bowyer, Ruth McCurry, Robin Mueller and Allegra Steinsort.

The services and products included in the "Extreme Makeovers" were donated by Sun Essentials, Merle Norman, Hair Experts, Headlines and The Mane Thing.

The volunteer stylists colored the participants' hair and manicured their nails at their local salons before the luncheon. The

haircutting and make-up were finished shortly before the women's new looks were modeled for the club.

"I had a really good stylist from Headlines Salon; it's been a lot of fun. I got my hair dyed, a manicure and a pedicure," said Robin Mueller. She said her family arrived at Fort Riley in November (2004) and she hadn't found a local stylist. "So, now I have someone. It's worked out great because I've gotten my daughter's hair cut by her and now I'm going to keep going to her," Mueller said.

After the catered luncheon, the recipients were individually announced as they entered the room to show off their new makeovers and new clothes donated by the Main Post Exchange.

OCSC organizers plan to host an "Extreme Makeover" next year to help increase awareness about the club and to add members, Archer said. "I think it got a lot of people interested in what we're doing and got a lot of people interested in coming," she said.

Online continued from page 19

if one partner is an exceptional cook while the other partner can't even boil water, such a difference can actually be a plus in their relationship.

How many Hollywood marriages are strong and happy when both partners are successful actors? If my wife and I are both writers, could I become jealous of my wife if her books are selling better than mine?

I'm not saying that marriages cannot succeed if both partners share the same profession. What I am saying is that such common ground can often prove problematic and the source of unhealthy competition.

Studies show the effectiveness of relationship inventories in helping couples assess the

strengths and weaknesses in their relationship. While the results of these inventories cannot guarantee that a couple will have a happy marriage if their test results fall within a certain percentile, they can reduce the potential of certain problems surfacing in a surprising manner after the couple has married.

Before people become engaged and marry, they need to answer a number of questions, many of which cannot be answered simply as a result of talking online.

How well do you really know this person with whom you've been communicating? What do you have in common? What are some of your differences? What do you know about the other person's family and friends?

Do you have similar values? Does this person have any bad habits or "baggage" that might be too much for you to live with over the years? Does he or she have any debts? Do you both view marriage as a life-long and faithful commitment? Do you both want to have children? What are your sexual expectations?

Does religion play a part in either of your lives? These are but a few questions that people should be able to answer before making one of the most important decisions of their lives.

Whether you are "dating" someone via the Internet or a person who lives down the street from you, it's important to evaluate your strengths and weakness before making a commitment.

Contest continued from page 19

the entry form. Untitled work may be entered, but each photographer will ensure their works are identified with a unique reference, e.g., Untitled 1, Untitled 2, etc. Additionally, a descriptive phrase, such as "castle with red sunset," should be made in the "additional info" box on the entry for of untitled work.

Each eligible patron may enter up to five prints per category. Individuals wishing to submit images from slide originals must have prints made and enter the prints in the appropriate category.

Short Film submissions should be made on 8mm or 16mm film, 1/2-inch VHS tape, CD-ROM or DVD disk. Video submissions should be in NTSC signal standard. Films with sound should use 60-hertz audio signal. Length of short films will not exceed 6 minutes.

All submissions must be the original work of the entrant, made within 24 months of the start of

the current contest year. Work entered in previous contest years may not be resubmitted to subsequent Army Photography contests.

Awards will be conferred as first, second and third place and one honorable mention prize for each category of the two print classes of the contest. In the short film class, awards will be made for first, second and third place and for as many as five honorable mention prizes.

Each judge also may identify one entry for a Juror's Choice award, and if all jurors agree, they may select a Best-in-Show prize. Judges are not required to award all prizes in all categories of competition.

For more information on the contest, call the Fort Riley Arts & Crafts Center at 239-9205 or stop by Building 6918 across the parking lot from the Main Post Exchange.

FRG leaders: What are your groups doing for your deploying/deployed Soldiers? Call 239-8854. Let's talk.

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The volunteer crew for "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" works to complete a new home in Clarksville, Tenn., in late June for Master Sgt. Luis Rodriguez of the 101st Airborne Div. Rodriguez lost his leg in Operation Iraqi Freedom. *ANS/Bland*

TV crew rebuilds family's home

By Kristen Marquez
Army News Service

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — The home "makeover" of a Soldier injured in Iraq will kick off the season premiere of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" Sept. 25.

In late June, the family of Master Sgt. Luis Rodriguez got a surprise visit from the cast and crew, including the popular Ty Pennington, and a new 3,225-square-foot home near Fort Campbell, Ky., specifically tailored to the Rodriguez family's needs.

Rodriguez was injured in Iraq in 2003, losing his right leg above the knee, two fingertips on his left hand and serious shrapnel wounds when his "Humvee" was struck by a roadside bomb near Mosul, Iraq. Over a period of four months, he underwent 16 surgeries and had to learn how to walk with a prosthetic leg and crutches.

Despite June's sweltering heat, some sudden thunderstorms and five days to work, the home makeover for Rodriguez, his wife, Lillian, and their daughters, Michelle, 8, and Melanie, 6, came together.

While the family was away on vacation, the crew of the television program and local builders, contractors and about 700 volunteers, rebuilt the Rodriguez family house, bigger and better than ever.

Strong Soldier, strong leader

Maj. Daniel Morgan, operations officer for 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, was Luis Rodriguez's former commander.

"Master Sgt. Rodriguez is one of the most passionate [noncommissioned officers] I've ever met," Morgan said. "He understands how to train Soldiers. He goes above and beyond training — he actually teaches them."

Morgan was on his way back from a patrol in Iraq when Rodriguez's patrol was on its way out. Rodriguez's patrol was ambushed. Morgan said it was fortunate that his patrol was right next to Rodriguez's when it was attacked so they could help out right away.

Once the U.S. element gained superiority, Morgan said he moved in to assess casualties and saw Rodriguez had been injured.

"His entire truck was demolished," Morgan said. "I reached in to try to pull him out and I had to move a lot of the metal and stuff out of the way, and when I reached in, I realized his leg was gone. He couldn't hear anything, but he was still trying to lead."

"Personally, half a dozen times we had been attacked as a company, but seeing him was pretty devastating. He had been my platoon sergeant for 22 months, and he had such a strong personality. So to see him so weak was devastating."

Morgan continues to stay close with Rodriguez and was at the home's demolition June 24.

"The wonderful thing about the Army is the friendships," he said. "You pay respect to rank, but in the end the friendship is naturally there due to all the hardships you have to endure together. So this has definitely drawn us much closer in that aspect."

One of the most important things Morgan wanted to point out about Rodriguez is that he doesn't see himself as any more deserving of the new home than anyone else. He also said Rodriguez is a father first, then a leader.

"He is just an example to all of

us by his commitment to his family, to the Army and to Soldiers," Morgan said.

"He has said he doesn't want to retire because he doesn't know what he would do without Soldiers."

Families show support

Fort Campbell families were excited to be a part of the "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" process. The overall theme of the weeklong adventure in the north Clarksville neighborhood was simply doing a good deed for a deserving family.

Jannelle Cundiff, whose husband is a pilot with 2nd Battalion, 17th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Div., and her friend Lacy Cooper, whose husband is a pilot with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, were at the demolition.

"I just think it's really awesome that actually somebody is going to do something nice for somebody that basically put their life on the line for us," Cundiff said.

"I wanted to come out and support the show for the same reason," Cooper said. "They're doing good things for people that have given so much and so we wanted to come out here and be supportive not only for the family, but to kind of represent the military families in general and just be supportive. I think it's great that they came here to honor the military, to do something for a servicemember that risked life and limb — literally."

Neither Cundiff nor Cooper actually knows the Rodriguez family, but both said that didn't matter to them. After reading about the family in the paper, they were simply touched by their story and felt like they wanted to help out by showing support.

On June 24, demolition day, Soldiers and community members alike signed in beginning at 5:30 a.m. to help.

"We're just here to show support to a fellow brother in arms," said Lt. Mike Taylor, Company D, 1st Battalion, 502nd Inf. Regt., who was one of many Soldiers from his unit that volunteered to help.

160th gets involved

Soldiers from the 160th Spec. Ops. Avn. Regt., known as SOAR, volunteered all week in four-hour shifts. Bikers Who Care, a local group of motorcycle and community service enthusiasts, contacted the 160th about volunteering their time to help build the home for the Rodriguez family.

Spc. Nick Brown worked a Monday afternoon. He said he had helped with the aquarium inside the house, the garage and some odd jobs in the back yard.

To Brown, knowing his unit volunteered to help a Soldier they don't even know really meant a lot to him and made him even more proud to say he's a Special Ops Soldier.

"I just think it's great to help out another Soldier, somebody that's been to war and got hurt, and they may need the house. I think it's a great thing to help out and build for them."

Family sparks friends

Friends and neighbors are quick to discuss the pleasure of knowing the Rodriguez family.

"We know them through preschool," Amy Casner said. "My oldest daughter, Jordan, is friends with their youngest, Melanie. And we live right around the corner."

Casner was friends with the Rodriguez family when Luis Rodriguez was injured in Iraq,

"I know at first it was really rough," she said. "But he's doing wonderful. They're real good friends with the people across the street from us, so I see him out there and yell hello."

"They'd probably give the shirt off their back for anybody. They are wonderful people. I couldn't pick a more deserving family. They are absolutely remarkable."

Tears of joy abound

With crowds of people gathered in neighbors' yards, some there since 7 a.m., the Rodriguez family got to see their new house for the first time the evening of June 29.

Ty Pennington emerged from the house with his trademark megaphone around 4:30 p.m., running along the street and slapping hands with spectators.

As Pennington stood by, the famous bus was slowly backed up to hide the house from view.

Cheers from the crowd erupted louder than ever as the family's limo door was opened.

Then the famous "Bus driver, move that bus!" could be heard.

The crowd picked up on the cheer and began chanting. "Move that bus! Move that bus!"

The bus began rolling and the Rodriguez family could see their new house for the first time.

Luis Rodriguez stared at the house for a brief moment, and then

clearly broke into tears.

Soon, the crowd's chant of "U-S-A! U-S-A!" became nearly deafening.

Both Luis and Lillian Rodriguez were emotional from that point on, wiping tears from their eyes, waving at the crowd and thanking everyone involved.

Around 5:40 p.m., the family was finally taken inside to see the interior.

Show to reveal 'Spirit of Soldiers'

Although the Rodriguez family has lived in their "made over" house for nearly three months now, they look forward to seeing the behind-the-scenes actions that transformed their home.

"I don't know what to expect [from the show]," Luis Rodriguez said. "[The producers] won't tell me anything."

The Rodriguez' lives have not been the same since the home makeover.

"The first two weeks after we got back, we had people driving by, snapping pictures and coming to the door," Luis Rodriguez said.

Overall, he is pleased with the new home and is looking forward to seeing how the show turned out.

"It represents a lot, it represents the spirit of Soldiers," he said. "It will be a positive thing to go out to the entire nation."

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

Friday, September 23, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 23

Leisuretime ideas

At the movies:

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

Sept. 23 – Valiant (G)
Sept. 24 – Four Brothers (R)

Sept. 25 – Valiant (G)
Sept. 29 – Four Brothers (R)

Sept. 30 – The Skeleton Key (PG-13)
Oct. 1 – Undiscovered (PG-13)

Oct. 2 – The Skeleton Key (PG-13)
Oct. 6 – Undiscovered (PG-13)

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Salina:

What: "Beauty and the Beast." Theater production.
When: Through Oct. 7
Where: Salina Community Theatre, 303 E. Iron Ave.
Phone: (785) 872-6126
Admission: charged

Atchison:

What: Haunted Trolley Tour. Hour-long trolley tour of Most Haunted Town in Kansas narrated by costumed storyteller.

When: Friday and Saturday evenings, through Oct. 31
Where: 200 S. 10th St.
Phone: (913) 367-2427 or (800) 234-1854
Admission: \$8

Topeka:

What: Care Bears Live "Caring and Sharing Friends." A magical, musical journey to Care-a-lot with Cheer Bear, Wish Bear, Funshine Bear, Grump Bear and the rest of their Care Bear friends.

When: 7 p.m. Sept. 27 and 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sept. 28
Where: Kansas ExpoCentre, One ExpoCentre Drive
Phone: (785) 297-1000 for information
Admission: \$14.50, \$16.50 and \$19.50. To charge tickets, call (785) 234-4545 or buy on the Web at www.ticketmaster.com.

Wichita:

What: Korean & Vietnam War Exhibit. Mannequins in original war uniforms, men and women telling stories of the Korean and Vietnam wars.

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday through Sept. 30

Where: 835 E. 1st St., Museum of World Treasures
Phone: (316) 263-1311
Admission: Adult \$9.90; Senior \$6.90; Youth \$5.90

Bucklin:

What: Gaeddel Farm Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch. Test your sense of direction in the 4.5 acre corn maze and choose your pumpkin at the pumpkin patch.

When: 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, 1 to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, through Nov. 6

Where: 1320 E. 82nd
Phone: (620) 543-3073 or (800) 638-2702
Admission: Varies

Post 'cavalry' to ride in open house

If you go:

People without valid Department of Defense vehicle registration stickers should enter Fort Riley at the Ogden, 12th Street or Trooper Drive access points and show proof of vehicle registration and insurance. All adults must show photo ID.

By Jay Baker

DA public affairs intern

The Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard trains year around for the cavalry demonstrations visitors will see at the post Open House on Cavalry Parade Field between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Oct. 1.

Ron Roller, equestrian instructor, said, "It's a lot of training.

Each rider has had at least 60 hours of training on the horse and most have more than 200 hours of training before open house demonstrations."

Some of the Soldiers assigned to the mounted color guard, including Spc. Eddie Wheeler, hadn't spent much time on horseback before being assigned to the unit, Roller said.

"I have been on a horse before,

but never bareback," Wheeler said.

New riders, such as Wheeler, have to develop balance and get used to the horse by riding in the sand pit, he said.

"I'm not even close to being qualified," Wheeler said.

Wheeler came to the unit about five months ago after his unit returned from Iraq. His unit, Battery C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air

Defense Artillery, was inactivated, and he was reassigned to 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and attached to the mounted unit.

The "troopers" must meet standard requirements for mounted color guard duty, Roller said. Applicants must meet height and weight standards, pass a physical training test with a score of 210 or

See Open house, Page 25

Back in time

16th century fest beckons

By Deb Skidmore

Media Relations Officer

In the blink of an eye, you can be transported to a 16th century village, known as Canterbury, when kings ruled the land, knights jostled for a maiden's honor and jesters performed in the streets. All this and more will come to life for visitors at the Kansas City Renaissance Festival.

In its 29th year of offering an enchanting escape, the festival features more than 500 costumed characters who entertain guests within their 16-acre village setting. As you step into the village, the sights and sounds of current day events are erased.

Villagers throughout the festival strum dulcimers, mandolins and harps as music floats through the air and youth dance around a maypole.

The music mingles with the smells of food fit for a king – roasted turkey legs, stew in a bread bowl, Scotch eggs and chocolate covered cheesecake on a stick.

More than 160 shopkeepers fill the village with their wares and crafts for sale. The items include jewelry, pottery, leather goods, candles and furniture.

Additionally, 13 stages are strategically placed within the village offering comedy performances, fire eating and magic tricks.

A special area, the Children's Realm, caters to the smaller visitors to the village. Games, shows, crafts and human-powered rides add to the fun. And, the king makes an appearance at 4:30 p.m. each day in the Royal Glade to bestow knighthood on the future protectors of his kingdom.

If you go:

What: Kansas City Renaissance Festival

Where: Bonner Springs. From Fort Riley, go east on I-70 and take the Bonner Springs exit. Go north and follow the signs.

When: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends only through Oct. 16

Web site:

renfest@kcrcnfest.com

Phone: (913) 721-1075 or (800) 373-0357

Admission: \$7-\$15



Post/Gary Skidmore

A fire eater is one of the many medieval re-enactors and entertainers who will give renaissance festival visitors a glimpse at 16th century European life on weekends through Oct. 16 in Bonner Springs, Kan.

Paxico blues festival to help relief

Special to the Post

At the Paxico Blues Festival & Benefit for Hurricane Katrina Victims, visitors can expect to hear red hot blues, eat some great mouth-watering barbecue, experience good times and see a lot of friendly faces.

Featured artists will be some Kansas City-based blues musicians, such as D.C. Bellamy, Cotton Candy & So Many Men, John Paul & the Flying Circus, Connie & the Choir Boys and Lee McBee & the Confessors.

Visitors can kick off their shoes and enjoy dancing in the streets of historic downtown Paxico of

If you go:

Take Interstate 70 east to Exit 335 and go left under the highway. Exit 333 at the winery and a frontage road may also be used.

Remembering that music is food for the soul, the Paxico Blues Festival & Benefit for Hurricane Katrina Victims will also be a collection point for "Music for Humanity."

Attendees can lift some spirits by donating new or used musical instruments to be sent to the Gulf Coast region schools.

The Paxico Blues Festival & Benefit for Hurricane Katrina Victims kicks off at noon Sept. 24 and runs until 8 p.m. Comic Crash of KKKI 90.1 FM will be the show's emcee.

Admission is free. For more information, call Steve Hundt at (785) 636-5520.

Former post teacher to play

Concert emphasizes neo-romantic style

By Gail Parsons

Director, JCAC

University of Denver band director and former Junction City music teacher Steve Traylor will perform a solo bass trombone concert of contemporary works on Oct. 13 at the Junction City Little Theatre.

A reception will follow the performance.

Traylor's impressive biography includes working as band director at Fort Riley Junior High School and starting the marching band at the Junction City Middle School when he worked for Geary County Unified School District 475

from 1981 to 1987.

"The marching band grew very big. There was one year I had 100 students in the marching band. I had to scale back; it was too much," he said. "I also had a jazz

If you go:

When: 7 p.m. Oct. 13
Location: Junction City Little Theatre, 18th Street (near the Buffalo Soldier Memorial)

Tickets: \$10; available at Junction City Art Gallery, 107 W. Seventh St., and Municipal Building, 700 N. Jefferson St.

program there that was successful."

Local residents might also remember Traylor as the coach and assistant coach for football, basketball and track at the middle schools during the 1980s.

"Our ninth-graders were tops in the league in football," he recalled.

Traylor said he is looking forward to coming back to Junction City to perform for old friends and new residents who can appreciate classical bass trombone.

The performance will be of a neo-romantic style.

"If you like brass and the

See Trumpet, Page 25



Former Fort Riley Middle School music teacher Steve Traylor returns to Junction City for a trombone concert Oct. 13 at the Junction City Little Theatre. Publicity photo





Ensemble offers jazz

Blues singer, R&B group booked for show



Publicity photo
R&B group 3 A.M. will perform in concert Sept. 24 at the Cottonwood Ballroom of the convention center in Junction City.

By Sheryl Woodruff
Big Zeke Productions

A Kansas City jazz ensemble and blues vocalist as well as a Lawrence, Kan., R&B trio will perform Sept. 24 in the Cottonwood Ballroom of the Marriott Convention Center.

The concert and dance begins at 8 p.m. following dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Smooth Groove has performed as a jazz ensemble since 1989 and is well known throughout the jazz community and with jazz patrons. Its repertoire includes standard and contemporary jazz, blues and swing.

Vocalist Stephanie Wilson delivers "in your face and tell it like it is down home" blues with a lot of gospel flavor.

She always has audiences laughing, shouting, tapping their feet and shaking their heads in time to her powerful voice and delivery of those bittersweet memories of life and love.

Old school harmony, smooth vocals, soulful lyrics and electrifying performances are the trademarks of 3 A.M., an R&B group that opened for Ruben Studdard during a Grammy-sponsored event in Kansas City, Mo.

Tickets cost \$36 for the dinner, concert and dance. A \$21 ticket admits the holder to the concert and dance, if bought before the event. Tickets at the door will cost \$23 for the concert and dance.

Dance and concert tickets can be purchased for \$21 at the Marriott Convention Center from 1 to 7 p.m. Sept. 23 and at the door for \$23 from 3 to 6:15 p.m. Sept. 24.



Publicity photo
Members of the Kansas City jazz ensemble Smooth Groove will bring about 15 years of performance experience to a dinner and dance Sept. 24 in the Cottonwood Ballroom of the convention center in Junction City.

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Leisuretime ideas

Cottonwood Falls:

What: Music at the Emma. Weekly acoustic jam sessions playing country, gospel, bluegrass, and rock and roll. Musicians and audience welcome.

When: 7:30 p.m. Fridays only, year-round

Where: 317 Broadway, Emma Chase Café
Phone: (620) 273-6020
Admission: Free

What: Prairie Drifter Sunset Tour. Open-air two-hour ride in 1958 grain truck through 20 miles of scenic Flint Hills back roads.

When: Friday and Saturday evenings through Oct. 31

Where: 215 Broadway, Grand Central Hotel
Phone: (620) 273-6763
Admission: \$15

Strong City:

What: Prairie Bus Tours. Tour the prairie's intricate system of plants and animals on this seven-mile bus tour led by National Park Service rangers. Experience sweeping views and endless skies.

When: 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., daily through Oct. 30

Where: Highway 177, Historic Ranch Headquarters
Phone: (620) 273-8494
Admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids

Abilene:

What: "Always... Patsy Cline." Great Plains Theatre Festival musical theater production.

When: Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 2 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Sept. 23 through Oct. 9.

Where: Great Plains Theatre Festival, 300 Mulberry St.
Web site: www.greatplains-theatre.com
Phone: (785) 263-4574 or (888) 222-4574

Admission: \$16 adults, \$11 students 21 and younger, \$14 military.

Topeka:

What: Gem and mineral show.

When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 8 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 9.

Where: Kansas Expocentre, One Expocentre Drive

Phone: (785) 234-4545
Admission: \$4 adults, \$1 students, children under 11 free

What: Brad Paisley in concert with Sara Evans and Sugarland

When: 8 p.m. Oct. 22
Where: Kansas Expocentre, One Expocentre Drive
Phone: (785) 234-4545
Cost: \$36.75 and \$24.75



Sgt. Ryan Thomas, a Trooper with the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, demonstrates one skill the Soldiers learn. He was exhibiting military horsemanship at the Junction City rodeo in the summer of 2003.

Post/Blackmon

Open house

continued from page 23

higher and have a general military aptitude test score of 100 or higher, he said.

"Some applicants are great Soldiers, but they aren't real comfortable around the animal or the animal isn't comfortable around them, and it might take more time to train the Soldier," Roller said.

He explained that applicants don't need prior horsemanship experience but will get familiar with the horse right away during the interview.

Once Soldiers are trained, they participate in parades, ceremonies and events all over the country, Roller said.

At the post's open house, the mounted unit's Soldiers plan to demonstrate several skills developed over months of training,

Roller said.

"They will do a saber-assault course, pistol assault and a mule wagon demonstration," he said.

The Soldiers also will set up an encampment and be ready to discuss the Fort Riley Cavalry history, uniforms and living conditions, Roller said.

Assignment in the mounted unit usually lasts 12 months, Roller said.

Sgt. Brian Florke came to the unit after returning from Iraq. An injury he sustained during duty prevents him from riding, but he said being in the unit is a great learning experience.

Spe. Josh Walther said he loves animals and being in the mounted unit is the best job he has ever had.

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Center to host Zanes

Lively concert aimed at family audiences

Kansas University

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Lied Center of Kansas presents Dan Zanes and Friends, a group led by a former rock and roll lead singer/songwriter turned children's musician, in performance at 11 a.m. Oct. 8.

After leading The Del Fuegos throughout the 1980s, Zanes found a new style, inspired by the birth of his daughter, Anna. Frustrated with the traditional and often predictable children's music available, Zanes tapped into his folk roots and took inspiration from Ian Tyson, Sylvia Flicker and gospel groups such as The Five Blind Boys from Alabama to create his new edgy style that caters to a family audience.

Zanes always invites audiences to "sing along with gusto" at his live performances, which ultimately dissolve into all-ages dance parties. Amazon.com Editor's Review calls his performances "folky, hip, a bit rocking, and altogether a hoot."

Joining Zanes onstage is Barbara Brousal, vocals, acoustic guitar and mandolin; Cynthia Hopkins, saw and accordion; Yoshi Waki, upright bass; Colin Brooks, drums; and Jamaican rapper Rankin Don, aka Father Goose.

Zanes has released four albums on his own record label, Festival Five Records. With musicians such as Debbie Harry and Grateful Dead's Bob Weir and hits such as "House Party Time," "Tennessee Wig Walk" and "Wabash

Cannonball," Zanes' latest album, "House Party (2003)," is another hit with children and adults alike.

"House Party" has been nominated for a Grammy in the category of "Musical Album for Children."

A lunch with Dan Zanes and Friends will be held in the Seymour Gallery following the performance. The luncheon cost is \$5 for children 16 and under and \$10 for adults. Reservations are required by Sept. 26.

To make a reservation, call the Lied Center ticket office at (785) 864-2787.

Lied Center facilities, parking and front-of-house staff are prepared to accommodate patrons with special needs. The Lied Center has barrier-free entrances.

Trumpet

continued from page 23

majestic sonority of it, you'll like this," he said. "This is something you can melt into."

The 60- to 90-minute program will be "very user friendly," Traylor said. "I'll talk about things before I play them. It will be an experience (the audience) can enjoy."

He avoids a "high-brow" performance, preferring instead to make the recital experience personal between himself and the audience.

"It's not meant to be arm's length away," he said. "I want to help a person understand what I am playing."

His approach to his role as a musician may be due in part to his Kansas upbringing, or it may have to do with "great teachers" he has had along the way. Among those

he credits for his success are Bob Montgomery and the late Tom Wright at Emporia University; his high school music instructor in Burlington, Ed Archer; and in Denver, Joe Martin and Pete Vriesenga.

While several people helped foster his talents, his love for music has been with him all his life.

"It's just something I always had to be a part of. I enjoy it; I've got to do it," he said.

Music is such a big part of his life that in addition to teaching it at the University of Denver, he is a freelance musician and has his own Fat City Mardi Gras band.

Some of his classical experiences include performances with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Ballet, Central City

Opera, Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, Denver Municipal Band and the Rome Festival Orchestra in Italy.

He has performed or currently performs with several commercial groups, such as Park Avenue, Full House, Neophonic Jazz Orchestra, Queen City Jazz Band and Dixieland Express. Some of these groups have entertained crowds of thousands at local sporting events, such as the Denver Broncos, Denver Nuggets, Colorado Crush and the Colorado Rockies.

Through his endeavors, Traylor has shared the stage with some of the best entertainers in the business, including Mel Torme, Frankie Valli, Four Tops, Kenny Rogers, Crystal Gayle, Bob Hope, Steve Allen, Harry Connick and Dianne Reeves.

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Event marks start of local counties

By Gaylynn Childs

GCHS Executive Director

The Geary and Riley County Historical Societies plan to recognize the 150th anniversary of their counties with a special meeting and social at the First Territorial Capitol on Fort Riley Sept. 29.

The 7 p.m. membership meeting and social is open to the public and recognizes the creation of Davis (Geary) and Riley as joint entities by the Kansas Territorial Legislature in August 1855.

The evening will feature a brief presentation by a Riley County scholar on the "Bogus Legislature" and the laws it put in place during its tumultuous time.

This will be followed by a re-enactment of the first sessions of this same body, which was put together for the 2004 "Bleeding Kansas" Chautauqua.

If you go:

Those without DoD vehicle registration stickers on their cars must present a valid vehicle registration, valid auto insurance card and photo IDs of all adults in the vehicle to obtain a pass to enter post.

Entry may be made at the Ogden and 12th Street gates if coming from the east (Manhattan) or Troop Drive if coming from Junction City.

The re-enactment features about 20 Geary County educators and history buffs playing the roles of many pro-slave delegates and a few free-staters who came to the stone Capitol in July 1855 to establish the laws and government

of the new Kansas Territory.

The lively presentation features many of the actual speeches made by the delegates and illustrates the attitudes and actions that led to the Bleeding Kansas outrages and eventually the Civil War.

Period costumes, props and the atmosphere of the historic hall will add much to the performance and the ambience of the occasion.

After the 40-minute re-enactment, cider, coffee and the home-made pies that were historically a part of that first legislative gathering will be served in the lower gallery by period costumed hostesses.

For more information about the sesquicentennial event, call Cheryl Collins at the Riley County Historical Museum in Manhattan at (785) 565-6490 or Gaylynn Childs at the Geary County Historical Society in Junction City at (785) 238-1666.



Pos/Heronemus

Re-enactors heatedly debate to pro-slavery issue at the first session of the Kansas Territorial Legislature during a chautauqua event at the First Territorial Capitol on Fort Riley in October 2004. The re-enactment will be done again Sept. 29 at the capitol building.

Museum group plans fair, social

Military families invited to go

By Gaylynn Childs

GCHS Executive Director

The Geary County Historical Society invites the public to join its members for their annual Ice Cream Social and Friendship Fair.

The fun is scheduled from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Oct. 2 on the west lawn of the GCHS Museum, 530 N. Adams St. in Junction City.

The historical society aims to make this event a special gesture of friendship and welcome to those families arriving at Fort Riley and to show support to the family members of those Soldiers deployed overseas.

All military families and personnel in the area are extended an invitation to attend as special guests.

Plans for this old-fashioned community fair include much to see and do for all ages. There will be plenty to tempt the taste buds as well.

Burgers and brats, hot off the grill, will be offered for a nominal fee. Servings of homemade pie, cake and cookies and a variety of soft drinks will also be available.

The star offering on the menu will be ample servings of delicious homemade ice cream, complements of Munson Farms and their vintage John Deere machine that makes it possible for guests to enjoy the real old-fashioned treat that first made these summertime socials popular in the 1890s.

Fun, games and activities for the children will include miniature train rides, a fish pond, face painting and contests.

A new feature this year will be the "Old Tyme Photo" tent complete with period costumes, props and backdrops, where the younger set can have photos made of them looking like great-grandpa or grandma did as a child.

The popular "Country Store" tent will offer a variety of fall decorations and crafts items and perhaps some late-season garden produce and homemade baked goods.

Live musical entertainment will keep things lively all afternoon, as visitors and guests relax and socialize under the shade of the big tents.

For more information, call the Geary County Historical Society Museum at 238-1666.

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GEARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

3 x 5.5"

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3x5.5 Pregnant Military Dep.



Photo courtesy Maj. Janice McCall

Resurrected Pacer to join others

This unfinished Pacer won the "Will It Ever Fly Again" award at last year's Experimental Aircraft Association's "Wings Over Wheat" fly-in at Junction City's Freeman Field. Its owner will fly in to this year's show from the east coast - new home for the former Alaska brush plane. It will be displayed with 50 to 60 other planes expected to take part in this year's event Sept. 24. The air show has scheduled a sky diving demonstration by the Kansas State University jump club about 9 or 9:30 a.m., airplane rides for youngsters starting about 12:30 to 1 p.m., food concessions sold by the local Civil Air Patrol chapter and judging of experimental, classic and antique planes entered in the show. Admission to the air show is free. Freeman Field is located at the intersection of Jackson and 18th Street.

Program series explores discoveries

Presentations to reveal what Lewis, Clark experienced

By Gaylynn Childs

GCHS Executive Director

The Geary County Historical Society Museum, in partnership with the Dorothy Bramlage Public Library in Junction City, will offer a special series of programs marking the 200th anniversary of the Corps of Discovery Expedition into the Louisiana Purchase led by Merriweather Lewis and George Clark.

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and put together by the Missouri and Kansas Humanities Councils, the programs will be presented in the Museum Auditorium every Thursday in October beginning at 7 p.m.

The GCHS Museum is located in Junction City at 530 N. Adams St.

The program themes and topics are as diverse as this unique community, and they promise to be fun and educational.

Admission is free. On Oct. 6, the program is about the "French Creole Music Traditions of Upper Louisiana," presented by Dennis Stroughmatt, French Creole fiddler and touring artist.

The audience will be given an opportunity to "look through the window of the music of the French Creole culture encountered by Lewis and Clark and still alive in upper Louisiana." This presentation includes a discussion of French Creole history and examples of stories and songs.

On Oct. 13, the program will explain the "Uniforms and Equipment of the Lewis and Clark Expedition," presented by Robert H. Dorian, historian with the Frontier Army Museum.

The audience will learn about the daily routine and activities of the "soldiers" that made the epic journey. Examples of uniforms and equipment will illustrate this program.

On Oct. 20, the program will tell about the "Wildlife Encountered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition," presented by Debra Hiebert, historical re-enactor, naturalist and environmental educator.

The audience will learn about some of the unique creatures Lewis and Clark encountered in this vast and wonderful wilderness.

On Oct. 27, the program will bring to life "The Kanza ... The Tribe Lewis and Clark Almost Met," presented by Betty Durkee, historic preservation director for the Kaw Nation.

The audience will learn about the profound impact the Lewis and Clark expedition had upon the Kaw.

As a prelude to the Thursday programs, a special film on "Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery" made for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be shown at the Dorothy Bramlage

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